

JAPANESE AND GERMAN AIRCRAFT ON OUTDOOR EXHIBIT

WILLOW GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA - There are seven aircraft of the Second World War in the process of slow decay at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Pennsylvania. None of these appear to be flyable but a few could possibly be restored without too much difficulty. The Japanese Zeke and George are in the best condition. All of the aircraft are placed directly behind the fence along main highway Pa 309 and can be readily viewed from the roadside. Each plane, except the Jill, has a sign giving details of size and performance. The planes are:

Arado 196B - A beautiful twin float scout seaplane. This was used aboard the German cruiser *Prince Eugen* on its raiding expeditions. Color is dull black, and no numbers are visible. Rear machine gun still on mount. In poor condition.

Mitsubishi Zeke - Mark unknown. Aluminum color except for the red meat ball insignia. No numbers concerning model etc. are visible. A few bullet holes in rear of plane. Appears to be a late model.

Mitsubishi George - No numbers or model available. Has two small bombs under each wing and 4 guns. Color is natural aluminum. Numerous bullet holes in fuselage.

Curtiss P-40E - Model not listed, nor is serial or c/n available. According to sign this aircraft was used by the Flying Tigers. Has full Tiger Insignia, blue and white Chinese Air Force insignia, and twelve Jap flags forward of the cockpit on the left side. Color is dull OD. In poor condition.

Nakajima Jill 12 - No information available. Color natural aluminum,

Messerschmitt 262 - Painted dull black, and no numbers are visible. In very poor condition.

Kawanishi N1K1 Kyofu - A beautiful seaplane fighter in all aluminum color. It appears to be in good condition. Still mounted on its large single float.

Perhaps a movement to restore and preserve these and other similar aircraft should be organized. Photographs of these planes as they appear today are available from Roger Besecker, 1346 North Wahneta Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO - There is a nice looking Nakajima "Oscar" Mark II presently at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque. It is painted blue with white undersides and red insignia. Members interested in 616 photos of this plane are invited to write Brian Baker, 3347 East Hubbell Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - There is a Messerschmitt Me 262A-1 minus its left engine pod rotting on a playground in front of the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. It was placed there in 1951 after the Navy used it in fire-fighting tests, and carries the Bu Aer serial 113367 erroneously, since this number was actually assigned to an F8F-2. Sitting beside it is a Kawanishi N1K2-J in terrible condition. A crying shame that rare examples of two significant WW-II fighters should rot in a playground.

A/3c Robert F. Dorr, D-4, Presidio of Monterey, California,

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - There is a Curtiss P-40E(?) and a Mitsubishi George parked near the fence at "Travel Town", Griffith Park, Los Angeles, California. The P-40 has "Tiger" teeth, camouflage, centerless star and phoney tail number 3007. Photos and details available from Rev. Boardman C. Rood, St. Andrew's Church, Corning, California.