

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

HEINKEL He162A-2 W/NR.120227/AIR MIN 65/VN679/8472M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1990/0697/A

- Apr 45 Built by Heinkel-Nord at Marienehe, near Rostock-one of probably 55 He 162s built there, from a total of 171 He162s built; delivered? late April to II/JG1 at Leck airfield, near Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, on the Danish border - a collecting point for many surviving Luftwaffe units in northern Germany at this time, the unit being declared combat ready at Leck on 20 April. No code recorded but believed to be 'Red 2'. One of at least 116 He162A 'Volksjager' (People's Fighter) aircraft officially delivered to the Luftwaffe, a minimum of 55 being completed at Marienehe. On 3 May 45 JG1 was organised into two Gruppen, 1 Einsatz (combat) and II Sammel (replacement). Fuel shortages seemingly restricted operational use of the type which was underway by 25th April 1945, and the last He162 operational flight from Leck was on 6 May 1945, by a single aircraft which crashed on landing; a ceasefire had come into effect later the previous day.
- 6 May 45 One of some 50 He162s surrendered to British forces at Leck, the first to arrive being the RAF Regiment; following the German capitulation on 7 May, the airfield was officially take over by the Allies on 8 May, and JG1 was disbanded, with most of its officers discharged early in July 1945.
- 31 Jul 45 Arrived at RAE Farnborough by surface transport, as one of at least 11 He162s delivered to the UK.

This aircraft has previously been confused with VH513/Air Min 67, which underwent extensive flying trials at Farnborough; Air Min 65 itself does not seem to have been flown in the UK - the RAE flew 5 of its 11 He162 aircraft.

- 26 Nov 45 Allocated RAF serial VN679, not in the event carried on the aircraft.
- 15 Dec 46 Noted in scrap area at Farnborough.
- 11 Jul 47 Displayed at the Blackpool Air Pageant at Squires Gate airfield, Blackpool having been rescued for use as a display exhibit, possibly at the behest of the Air Historical Branch. The Pageant lasted for three weeks. Photo – Aeroplane Monthly July 2015 p.21.

Later (late 1947) deleted from the AHB list possibly due to pressure on storage space at RAF Sealand and RAF Stanmore Park where the rest of the AHB collection was then stored.

- 1949 To Central Gunnery School, RAF Leconfield by this date.

- 1953 Photographed being assembled at RAF Melksham, Wiltshire, in Luftwaffe markings. Photo-Flypast October 2006 p.60.
- c.1958 To RAF Colerne, Wilts, forming the nucleus of the later historic aircraft collection there together with Me163 W/Nr191904.
- Both aircraft again shown at the station's September 1960 Battle of Britain open day.
- Photos of He 162 at Colerne: Captive Luftwaffe DoRIS Ref: 009336 p.55 as displayed as 'Red 2' in 1969, also Colerne Museum Guide (R014443) p.31. Displayed at Colernes' Sep 58 Battle of Britain Display - Air Britain Digest Oct 58 p.114. Colour photo c.1959-60; His Air Dec News Aug/Sep 1966 p.28-29. Also War Prizes-The Album p.109, as of 1970.
- 15 Sep 62 Displayed at RAF Hullavington Battle of Britain open day alongside Colerne's Me163 and Spitfire Mk.II.
- Sep 68 Displayed at RAF Battle of Britain day display at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire. Photo – Heinkel He 162 Volksjager p. 73 MBI 2003
- 23 Aug 69 Displayed at International Air Day display at RAF Chivenor.
- 24 Jul 72 Again despatched to RAF Chivenor for temporary display on 5th August, then on to RAF Abingdon for their Battle of Britain air Day, returning to Colerne 22nd September 1972.
- Sep 74 Restoration begun at Colerne by small volunteer team. Engine refurbished and airframe repainted. During repainting, the original 1945 RAF wing roundels and fin-flash were found and recorded as the fuselage was stripped back to bare metal, though with no evidence of AM number or RAF serial. Photo of wings being refurbished; RAF News week ending April 26 1975 p.8.
- 13 Feb 76 Allotted RAF Maintenance serial 8472M.
- 15 Mar 76 Restoration at Colerne completed by team led by SAC Jim Honeywell as the last volunteer restoration project at Colerne. It then took a leading role in the official closure of Colerne Museum two days later, on Wednesday 17th March (due to impending closure of the airfield at the end of the month) and was later towed across the main runway after receiving the green signal from the control tower, thus making the last aircraft movement at Colerne prior to the airfields' closure on 31 Mar 76. Details: Control Column Oct 76 p.154.
- 30 Mar 1976 To regional collection at RAF St Athan. Fitted by this time with dummy instrument panel but minus the pilots' ejection seat (which is still missing). Allocated maintenance serial 8472M at St Athan. Colour photos: Jet Planes of the Third Reich (019119) p.320; Heinkel He 162 (Forsyth/Creek) p.188/189.

22 Nov 89 Moved to RAF Museum Hendon due to dispersal of the St Athan collection and displayed in the Bomber Command Hall. Photos: Scale Models International May 90 p.214; Supplement to Aeroplane April 2000 p.44; Flypast August 2006 p.30; The Flying M Spring 2011 p.15.

Other He162 Survivors

W/Nr120015 (previously thought to be 120223) Musee de L'Air, Le Bourget

W/Nr120076 Formerly with National Aeronautical Collection, Rockcliffe, Canada; exchanged for Bristol F.2b with Aero Vintage, 2006; to Deutsches Technikmuseum, Berlin, 2011.

W/Nr120077 Planes of Fame Museum, USA - For sale 1999.

W/Nr120086 National Aeronautical Collection, Rockcliffe, Canada (Dismantled)

W/Nr120230 NASM, Washington DC (Tail of 120222)

W/Nr120235 IWM, formerly at South Lambeth; moved to Duxford October 2012.

There is also a full-sized replica of W/nr 120077, incorporating some original parts, in Germany (Flypast October 2007 p.14); and another (? same) with Sandy Air, W/Nr 220006.

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