



## Fieseler Storch (G-BPHZ)



© Amanda Broomhead

Incredible looking with its long spindly undercarriage and high aspect ratio wings, the Fieseler Storch was one of the most unusual aircraft of World War II. The Storch has an amazing low speed capability and served as reconnaissance, liaison and ambulance aircraft. Given favourable weather it can almost hover stationary, an extraordinary feat for any aeroplane. It's most famous uses were as a personal transport for Field Marshall Rommel and for the mountain rescue of the Italian dictator Mussolini.

This particular example W.Nr.1827, registered G-BPHZ constructed in France in 1942 was originally fitted with an Argus inverted V8 engine. Post war it was used by the French Armee de L'Air, designated an MS 500 Criquet. After its military use it was re-engined with a Jacobs radial becoming a MS 505 Criquet and used for glider towing before being bought to the UK in 1988. It joined the Historic Aircraft Collection in 2002

An original Argus V8 engine has been acquired, together with its propeller and some of its accessories and it is planned to convert the aircraft back to its original MS 500 specification. If anyone has any of these specialist parts that would help us with the conversion we would be delighted to hear from you. We are especially seeking MS 500 manuals.

The Storch takes part in the "The last dogfight on the Western Front" re-enactment with its sparring partner, the L4 Grasshopper.

### "The Last Dogfight on the Western Front"

The Fieseler Storch was the last dogfight victim of the western front in the Second World War to be shot down by an American aircraft. Whilst circling on a reconnaissance mission, it was spotted by a L4 Grasshopper (Piper Cub) looking for ground targets. The Cub's crew opened fire with their hand pistols on the Storch and it spiralled to a safe

landing on the ground. Apart from being the last Luftwaffe aeroplane lost in the war, the Storch was also the only enemy aeroplane downed by pistol fire during the war.

Fieseler Storch G-BPHZ is currently grounded for maintenance.

### **Fieseler Storch**

Wing Span: 48ft 4in (14.25m)  
Length: 32ft 5in (9.90m)  
Height: 10ft (3.05m)  
Power: 300hp 7-cylinder Jacobs radial (but see main panel)  
Weight: 3505 lbs (1,590kg)  
Maximum Speed: 99 knots (185kp/h)  
Service Ceiling: 15,090 ft. (4599 m)  
Range: 239 miles (384 km)  
Armament: 1x rear firing MG15-7.92 Pilot would carry a side arm  
Wing Span: 48ft 4in (14.25m)

The Storch is available for air displays, memorial flights, TV and film work and other promotional activities. Please Janice Black at:

Historic Aircraft Collection Ltd  
P.O. Box 39, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 6ZT  
Tel: (44) 01580 830215  
Fax: (44) 01580 830875

Email us on [hac@aerovintage.co.uk](mailto:hac@aerovintage.co.uk)