



Mailing Address:

43W624 U.S. Route 30
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Museum Address:

44W546 U.S. Route 30
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

1-630-466-0888

www.airclassicsmuseum.org

Hours:

Monday - Friday: CLOSED

Saturday & Sunday: 10AM-3PM

Group and Private Tours

Available by Appointment

Board of Directors:

Mike Lumen - President

Hank Winkler - VP/Curator

Bill Roth - Treasurer

Steve Ports - Secretary

Ken Kwiatkowski - Mktg/FundRaise

Ray Hicks - Membership, Newsletter

Chuck Newell - Restoration

Bob Gluchman - Restoration

Steve Bartkowski - Director

Next Board Meeting:

December 11, 2021, 8:00 AM

Messerschmitt BF-109F Replica

The BF-109 fighter series was the highest produced aircraft of WWII. At the time of its introduction, the BF-109 was one of the most advanced aircraft of its time, incorporating all metal construction, an enclosed canopy, retractable landing gear, and a liquid-cooled, fuel-injected 12-cylinder engine, with dual liquid cooling systems for survivability in the event of damage. The aircraft was also designed to be easily maintained; the engine could be replaced in a matter of minutes and damaged wings could be removed in the field without the need to support the fuselage. However, the aircraft was not without its faults. The landing gear was designed with a very narrow track and the vertical stabilizer was relatively small, making it very unstable on the ground. As a result, approximately 10% of all BF-109 losses occurred during takeoff or landing.



The aircraft first saw service during the Spanish Civil War with the Condor Legion and was widely employed throughout Germany's involvement in WWII. It was credited with more aerial victories than any other aircraft and was flown by Erich Hartmann, Ace of Aces, who was credited with an astounding 352 victories. After the war, the BF-109 continued to be produced in Czechoslovakia and Spain until 1958.

The museum BF-109F replica is on loan from the Illinois Signal Corps Military History Museum, Burbank, IL.

F-105 Project Completion



A few touchups and panel sealants completed next year and this important project will be a wrap! Many thanks to Chuck Newell, Bob Gluchman, and Martin Kosik for all their efforts to make our Thunderchief look its very best in a new Southwest Asia (SWA) paint

scheme! Great job Gentlemen!!

Museum Season Ending

After one of our most successful seasons ever, Air Classics Museum will close for the year on **November 21st**. Many thanks to all our volunteers that have stepped up this year to lead special tours, maintain the exhibits & grounds, and staff the museum during the weekends (you know who you are)!! That being said, there will still be plenty to do to close up shop. If you are available to help, please be sure to visit us on the 21st.

Model Kits for Sale!!

The museum recently received a generous gift of 238 unassembled model kits and 59 reference books! As a result of this donation, our museum store now stocks more kits than most dedicated hobby shops in our area. Aircraft, ships, and armor/artillery models are well represented, and many are difficult to come by. If you know a model enthusiast, point them our way - we probably have what they're looking for. But they'd better hurry - the kits are selling well and are priced to move!



Coming Soon: 75mm Cannon Shell Exhibit

The museum recently acquired this artifact from the family of a decorated WWII B-25H Mitchell pilot. B-25H variants were heavily armed "strafers" that served in not only the medium bomber role, but also as anti-ship and anti-armor attack aircraft. The 75MM cannon (similar to that used on the M4 Sherman tank) was mounted in the nose of the aircraft along with up to four .50 caliber heavy machine guns. It was hand loaded after each shot by the navigator and fired by the pilot. 300 B-25H aircraft were produced during the war. This is a truly unique artifact and a welcome addition to the museum collection. (75MM cannon shell is shown with .50 caliber ammunition for comparison.)



We Want YOU To Be A Member

We are actively seeking new members and encouraging all our current/past members to renew their memberships. We are also in the process of updating our membership database so we can keep you informed of current events and volunteer opportunities. There's never been a better time to become a Life Member!! Membership includes free Air Classics water bottle, unlimited free admission to the museum, 10% gift shop discount, access to museum library, and volunteer opportunities. Life Members also receive a 25% discount in the museum gift shop and after-hours rental of museum or its camping/picnic area. Current Annual and Life membership rates are as follows:

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|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Student: | \$15 | Individual: | \$40 |
| Family: | \$50 | Life: | \$350 |



With pandemic safety measures still in place, it seems that many are shopping online more than ever. Did you know

that you can help our museum by doing so? Using smile.Amazon.com when shopping, our museum receives up to 0.5% of the price of your purchase in the form of a donation. Thousands of items are eligible. It's the same Amazon, with the same products and prices. It only takes a few moments to set up. Invite your friends and family too!

