

IN THIS INSTALLMENT, WE EXAMINE AIRCRAFT WHOSE FLYING DAYS ARE DEFINITELY OVER BY NORM TAYLOR



We probably have a generalized image of the English as being a clean and orderly society. Well, not so if the sad remains of an ex-Royal Air Force English Electric Lightning twin-jet fighter is an example. Sold surplus, the aircraft was placed as a roadside attraction in Nottinghamshire during 1983. However, it was so badly vandalized that it was finally scrapped in 2011.



As time passes, the aerial ghosts of New Guinea are becoming fewer and fewer. There is active scrapping going on in the area and then anyone attempting to recover and save an historic airframe has to put up with the incredible bureaucracy — look at B-17 *Swamp Ghost* as an example. This crash-landed B-25 Mitchell is slowly being overtaken by nature.

In an almost pastoral setting, the remains of a Mitsubishi A6M5 Zero return to nature on the west side of Pagan Island in the Marianas. This former Imperial Japanese Navy base had a 3000-ft grass runway and several other wrecks litter the area.



Two Gooney Birds (the aircraft on the right was an intact ex-French *Armée de l'Air* C-47), a clutch of MiG 21 jet fighters, and a variety of other Soviet aircraft highlight this aircraft boneyard on the island of Madagascar. An island off the African coast, Madagascar is typical of the African third- and fourth-world nations that have been incapable of operating military aircraft.



Sad remains of a Douglas C-47 left abandoned on Solheimasandur Beach near Vik, Iceland. We have no further details on the aircraft.

This Mitsubishi Zero was discovered on the plantation of Richard Gault in New Guinea. In the early 1970s, it was placed on a pole and painted. As can be seen, numerous components were missing. In 1979, a strong wind knocked the Zero off its perch (locals had stolen the bracing wires) and its final fate is not known. AC

