Ohio-Waffe

CAPTURED ENEMY AIRCRAFT TESTED AT WRIGHT FIELD

BY MARSHALL WAINWRIGHT

At Wright Field, headquarters of the USAAF Materiel Command, constant testing of captured enemy aircraft was being undertaken during the Second World War. The Evaluation Section of the Command's Technical Data Laboratory would thoroughly test enemy equipment and pass results on to front-line units and to the American aeronautical industry. In this view, a test pilot prepares for a flight in Focke-Wulf Fw 190G-3 WNr 160016. As can be seen this aircraft is in pristine condition. The fighter was reported captured at Monte Corvino airfield on 9 September 1943 in southern Italy following the Allied landings at Salerno. The Focke-Wulf carries the coding DN+FP. At Wright Field, the plane was overhauled and flown on 26 February 1944. This was a 50-min trip undertaken by Capt. Wallace A. Lien. Other flights were made, mainly by Maj. Gustav Lundquist, Capt. Kenneth Chilstrom, and Ralph Hoewing. As can be seen, no form of American identification had been added when this photo was taken but it is thought the plane became EB-104, then FE-125, and, finally, T2-125. The aircraft was also test flown at Freeman Field during May 1946. The Fw 109G-3 was allocated to be moved to storage at Park Ridge, Illinois, for the new national air museum but it apparently went back to Wright Field for use as a mobile display. After that, it disappears into history but was almost certainly scrapped by the late 1940s.