

Warbirds over Wanaka 2000

The Theme for 2000 was "Thier Finest Hour" - Battle of Britan

Photos - Hawker Hurricane (P3351)



(800x600 @ approx. 74-110k)

The restoration of the Russian sourced Hawker Hurricane (P3351) for the Alpine Fighter Collection was the Highlight of the Show of 2000. It will be kept by the Alpine Fighter Collection. This restoration has an interesting history which can be viewed on the video "the Restoration Story" available from the same producers as the WoW2000 official tape, at the end of this report.

Some Other New Appearance's.

Photos - P40's



The appearance of two recently restored Curtiss P40's was the result of a lot of work. One of them (the dammaged Ex Alpine Fighter Collections) was a welcome site resplendent with the "Tiger" nose art. This P40 will return to the US. The other was in the in the Pacific Theater markings of the RAAF. It is resident in NZ for the forseable future. We can perhaps look forward to seeing more in Warbirds over Wanaka 2002 as the rebuilds of P40's in NZ & AUS are surging ahead. The sight of 2 very "different looking" aircraft together was magic.

Photos - Polikarpov I-153 & "Swedish" Tumilisa Replica



The appearance of the the Polikarpov I-153 biplanes along with the I-16's all in the air was a world first and probably ony time that so many of the breed will be in the air together again. The distict sounds of the 2

types will remain a memory forever. The appearance of the Swedish marked Tumilisa replica and genuine Bleriot was an unexpected and unique chance to smell, hear and see an aircraft from WW1.

Air Show Review.

The 2000 show was up to the usual standard of superb display flying was well worth the effort of attending. The main attraction being the Hurricane and the pair of P40's. The misty sky and light rain did not detract from the day and in some cases made for good photos and effects. The ability of the paint crew to rapidly alter the markings (and in the case of the P51 a complete repaint over night), never fails to impress. The ever improving ground displays by the Military Vehicles and Vintage Tractor clubs makes this a varied and interesting show for all people. The numerous Trade tents and dealers of Aircraft related products made for a very busy time to see all that was on the ground before the main Airshow started.

A VIDEO of the 2000 Warbirds over Wanaka is available from:

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