

MUSTANG

WE FLY WITH A **with a DEADLY SMILE**
BRITISH-BASED **a P-51D THAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS "THE SHARK"**
BY RICHARD PAVER

During 2015, a new P-51D Mustang carrying the British civil registration G-SHWN entered the United Kingdom airshow scene. This Mustang has rapidly become a very popular addition to UK and European airshows with its unusual Royal Air Force No. 112 Squadron "sharkmouth" paint scheme. The P-51D also has been operating with the Boulton Flight Academy at historic Goodwood Airfield and that company has had a very busy couple of years offering customer rides in this Mustang,

which has become well known as the "Shark." The airframe itself is, of course, no stranger to UK or European airshows and in fact is one of the longest serving active European Warbirds — having originally been imported into Europe from the USA by Anders Saether in 1986, painted as Bud Anderson's *Old Crow* and operated by the Scandinavian Historic Flight in Norway.

This particular Mustang was delivered to the USAAF as 44-73877 and after a period of storage it was transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force where it became

RCAF 9279 on 23 January 1951. Among other assignments, the Mustang flew with No. 403 (Auxiliary) Squadron out of Calgary, Alberta.

In 1958, the Mustang was struck off charge and was one of many purchased by Intercontinental Airways (see "Mr. Denham's Mustang" elsewhere in this issue). After the collapse of Intercontinental Airways, the fighter went to Aero Enterprises before being purchased by Mustang enthusiast Neil McClain in Canada who registered it CF-PCZ (the airframe had 829-hrs when the certificate of airworthiness was issued).

On 29 April



The sharkmouth insignia was originally introduced by No. 112 Squadron on its Curtiss P-40s that they operated in the western desert during WWII.

Shaun Patrick's P-51D displays its accurate No. 112 Squadron RAF camouflage colors and markings.

