JERRY'S JERRIES

SOME OF THE GERMAN RARITIES ON DISPLAY AT THE MILITARY AVIATION MUSUEM

BY A. KEVIN GRANTHAM

Gerald "Jerry" Yagen, the benefactor of the Military Aviation Museum (MAM), has spent the better part of two-decades traveling the globe looking for neglected artifacts that should be preserved and displayed. During this journey, he has been fortunate enough to acquire the largest collection of both authentic and replica German war machinery in the world — a collection that is affectionately referred to by some as "Jerry's Jerries."

The MAM, established in 2005, is located at the privately-owned Virginia Beach Airport in Pungo, Virginia. It is only about a 15-minute drive from the shore to the Museum and the first hint that something special is on the horizon is when you round the corner on Princess Anne Road and, in the distance, can see an old red and white checkered military style water tower.

A few yards farther and the Museum's 1930s-era hangars come into view. As you turn into the Museum's entrance a traditional red English mail box and double-decker bus greets you. Off to the left are some wonderful dinosaur sculptures — not exactly something one would expect to see in a somewhat rural area of Virginia or, for that matter, at an air museum! But seeing these static creatures brings back fond memories of the roadside attractions that littered the United States during the post-World War II pre-interstate era. Perhaps Yagen had that in mind when designing his Jurassic Park gallery.

The dual main hangar stands adjacent to a natural grass runway and houses many of the World War II aircraft that Yagen has collected and restored since the 1990s. His extensive collection includes a Bell P-63; Boeing P-26; Consolidated PBY-5A

Getting the Daimler-Benz ready for a flight.

German re-enactors with MAM's Junkers Ju 52 tri-motor transport.

The realization of the unbuilt *Luftwaffe* designs have proven popular with MAM

Original Cottbus *Luftwaffe* hangar.

The Bf 109G charges down MAM's grass airfield — the ideal operating environment for the *Luftwaffe* fighter.

Focke-Wulf Fw 44 was equivalent to the USAAF Stearman.