



**1.**  
See what Wigram looked like back in the day

This scale model gives a glimpse of how the former air base at Wigram looked during World War Two - a self-contained village!

**2.**  
A Vietnam veteran

This RNZAF Bristol Freighter was one of the last aircraft out of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War.

**3.**  
New Zealand's largest 2-dimensional crowd

Each of these life-sized cut-out figures tells a story of service and sacrifice in our Air Force.



**4.**  
New Zealand's fastest jet

The A-4K Skyhawk had a maximum speed of 1,085 kph, but could break the sound barrier during a dive.



**5.**  
Some ace boots

These flying boots belonged to Kiwi fighter pilot Jim McCaw, grandfather of famous All Blacks Captain, Richie.

**6.**  
The pen that ended World War Two

This pen was used by New Zealand's representative, Air Vice-Marshal Leonard Isitt, to sign the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on 2 September 1945.

**7. The world's oldest flight simulator**

All pilots did time in the Link Trainer during World War Two. First designed in 1929, it was a safe way to teach student pilots how to fly by instruments.

**8. Wartime Kiwiana**

This Kiwiana-themed 'trench art' was created by Mr Ron Hermanns, New Zealand's oldest person (108), when he was stationed in the Pacific Islands during World War Two.

**Balloon Busters**

Step into the fly zone! How many enemy balloons can you destroy by flying into them? Take the challenge in this fun interactive, inspired by a true story from World War One.



**9. A royal aircraft**

This RNZAF Dakota carried Queen Elizabeth II around New Zealand on her Royal Tour in 1953-54.



**10. A former chicken coop**

This RNZAF Hudson bomber was being used as a chicken coop on a farm when it was salvaged by the Air Force Museum and restored to its former glory.



**11. 800 million candlepower**

This World War Two searchlight was capable of projecting light to an altitude of 60,000 feet – higher than any aircraft at the time could fly.

**12. The little plane that could**

When larger aircraft turned back, this Auster flew through atrocious weather to rescue stranded pilots from an aeroplane crash in Antarctica.



**13. A movie star aircraft**

Spitfire TE288 featured in the 1955 film 'Reach for the Sky', before coming to New Zealand and being mounted outside the Brevet Club at Christchurch Airport.

**14. A twisted engine**

This Spitfire engine lay buried in a field in France for more than 70 years, before travelling halfway round the world to the homeland of its pilot, Johnny Checketts.

**15. New Zealand's most kidnapped bear**

Friendly squadron rivalry meant that this fluffy mascot was frequently captured and very well-travelled! Read more of his story on his cut-out figure nearby.

**16. A life-saving Hollywood star**

The 'Mae West' inflatable life vest was issued to thousands of Royal Air Force air crew during World War Two, and took its slang name from an American actress known for her generous bust!



**17. New Zealand's luckiest duck**

Thomas Frederick Duck and his 75 (NZ) Squadron crew survived 60 bombing missions over occupied Europe during World War Two.

**Contact Café**

Take a break during your visit and relax in our spacious Café with a view.

Open daily  
9.30am-3.30pm.



**Shop**

Take the time to check out our Museum Shop for a special gift or souvenir of your visit. All purchases help support the work we do to preserve and share New Zealand's military aviation history.



**AIR FORCE MUSEUM**  
of New Zealand