

NORTH AMERICAN P51D N51T HISTORY

Early Years and Military Service

N51T began its service with the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) and later the Texas Air National Guard from 1945 to 1957. Following its military career, the aircraft was declared surplus and transitioned into private ownership.

Mustang—N51T—one of the few surviving Mustangs adorned in a civilian paint scheme. The P-51 Mustang, an iconic fighter aircraft of World War II, has a storied history, with many examples still flying decades after their wartime service. N51T is no exception, having undergone numerous modifications, ownership changes, and airshow appearances that have

1945 North American Aviation P 51D Mustang N51T. D 5Early Years and Military Service

N51T began its service with the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) and later the Texas Air National Guard from 1945 to 1957. Following its military career, the aircraft was declared surplus and transitioned into private ownership.

Transition to Civilian Ownership

In September 1957, P.J. Murray of Oxnard, California, acquired the aircraft for \$887. Over the next two decades, it changed hands multiple times, with owners including Thomas Sheridan of The Air Oasis Co., Harold Barlow, R.D. Weaver, and William Robert Wilson of Worldwide Helicopters. During the 1960s and early 1970s, N51T underwent frequent ownership transfers, involving both U.S. and French buyers. Throughout this period, various inspections and modifications were conducted, including airworthiness applications in the experimental category. Initially fitted with an Allison V-12 engine in 1972, it later received a Rolls-Royce V-1650-7 engine in 1974.

Evolution into N51T and Major Modifications

A pivotal moment came in 1977 when N5415V was re-registered as N51T. That same year, it was acquired by Anthony J. D'Alessandris of Reno, Nevada. Significant modifications followed, including the installation of a one-piece acrylic plastic windshield and an upgraded Rolls-Royce V-1650-9A engine. Through the 1980s and 1990s, N51T continued to evolve. In 1990, renowned warbird specialist Mike Nixon rebuilt its engine, further enhancing its performance. By 2004, the aircraft remained an active and cherished warbird, moving between airports such as KRNO and KRTS.

Restoration and Public Appearances

By 2008, efforts were underway to restore N51T to full airworthiness. In August 2010, John A. D'Alessandris of Reno, NV, became its new owner. That same year, the Mustang was displayed at the Reno Air Races, captivating spectators with its rich history and restoration progress. In subsequent years, N51T made regular appearances at the Reno Air Races, often parked outside for enthusiasts to admire. In 2014, its registration was updated to reflect its new home in Bandon, Oregon.

Ongoing Maintenance and Future Prospects

From 2014 to 2024, N51T has undergone continuous maintenance and upgrades to preserve its airworthiness. Most recently, in September 2024, an extensive annual inspection was completed by Mike Nixon and Matt Jackson, ensuring that this historic warbird remains in peak condition for years to come. The aircraft, a 1945 North American Aviation P-51D Mustang, has a total time since new of 2,507 hours, with only 237 hours since restoration. Its Merlin engine has 175 hours since major overhaul by Vintage V-12s. Originally restored in 1977, it has undergone a major IRAN inspection over the last decade. The interior features a custom leather design, and the bulletproof windshield has been replaced with a custom one-piece windshield. Finished in a striking civilian paint scheme applied by Learjet, the aircraft has recently been serviced by Mike Nixon, with an airframe inspection by Matt Jackson.

N51T is currently for sale for \$2,850,000.00

For Information contact:

Fred Austin

Email: Goldenageaeroplanes@gmail.com

Phone: 360-477-3100