

Photo #9 The Munich raids of July 1944 brought a number of 8th Air Force bombers to Switzerland. "Tequila Daisy" (#44-40168) flown by Lt. John C. Tracey of the 857th Bomb Squadron, 492nd Bomb Group, landed at Dubendorf on July 11 1944, as a result of flak damage causing loss of fuel and hydraulics. "Tequila Daisy" successfully landed in spite of the failure of the nose gear. One other 492nd aircraft (#42-95196) flown by Lt. Paul Plantinski of the 856th Bomb Squadron also landed at Dubendorf on this day, as well as three additional B-24s and three B-17s.



Photo # 12 One of the more tragic occurrences between U.S. aircraft and the Swiss Air Force happened on September 5th, 1944. On this day a B-17 from the 390th Bomb Group (shown in above photo at Dubendorf) was being escorted to Swiss airspace by two P-51 Mustangs from the 339th Fighter Group. As was customary on many occasions when foreign aircraft were entering their airspace, the Swiss would send several of their fighters (Bf 109Es) to intercept and escort the intruding aircraft to one of their airfields. Unfortunately on this day, the Swiss markings were not noticed until the Mustangs had shot down one (killing the pilot) and damaging another, causing it to crashland.

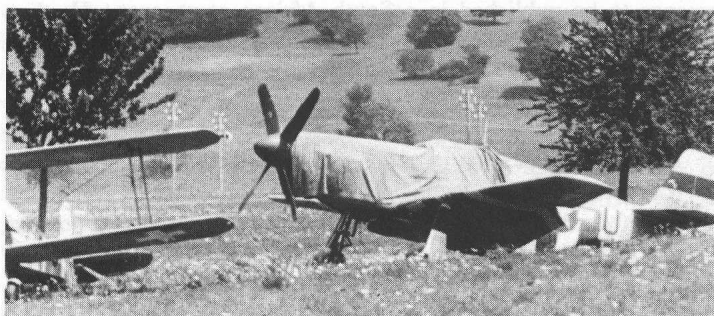


Photo #10 The heavy bombers were not the only ones in Switzerland during July 1944. A P-51B (#42-106464), coded WD-U from the 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force, landed at Ems. The aircraft was flown by Lt. Curtis Simpson and he reported a glycol fuel leak (which was bad news for a Mustang pilot). Lt. Simpson, eventually evaded back to Debden, England in October 1944. This was the first flyable P-51 which was interned by the Swiss.

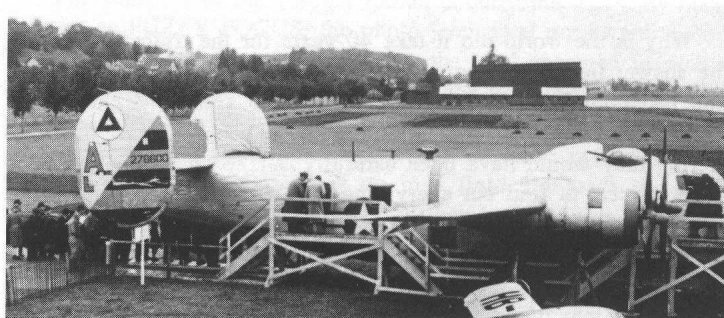


Photo #13 Not all aircraft interned in Switzerland were from the 8th Air Force. This B-24 Liberator from the 98th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force, is on display and is being given a close look by a number of Swiss civilians. Note the damage to the left rudder of the B-24 and the Benzin 1020 L. stenciling on the wing of the aircraft in the foreground. Any details as to date of internment, pilot and circumstances, would be welcomed.



Photo # 11 Damaged by flak over Leipzig and short of fuel "VONNIE GAL" of the 527th Bomb Squadron, 379th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, landed at Payerne airfield at 12:55 hours on July 20, 1944. It was on its 50th mission, and after landing at Payerne a Swiss crew flew it to Dubendorf. "VONNIE GAL" returned to Burtonwood, England on September 25, 1945. The crew of nine were interned. The author would appreciate hearing from anyone who could confirm that the pilot of "VONNIE GAL" on July 20th, 1944, was 2nd Lt. William Moore.

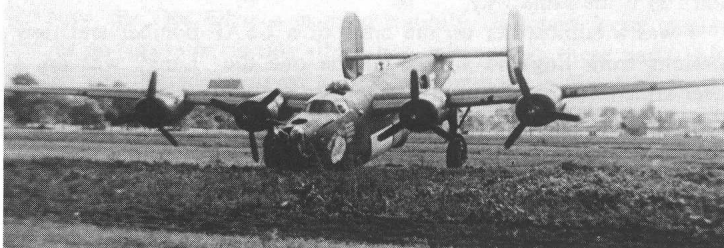


Photo # 14 Another 15th Air Force B-24 Liberator which landed in Swiss territory was "Brown Nose" and it is from either the 460th, 464th, or 465th Bomb Groups. Any information as to the group, pilot and date it was interned would also be appreciated.