



The Spotter's Journal

Aviation News from Luxembourg

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Luxair with Disney stickers (Serge BRAUN / 26.06.2013)



© Tristan SULZBERGER

Ukraine Ilyushin Il-62



© Serge BRAUN

Turkish Airlines (LUX-IST)

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Sun Air Dornier 328

On 30th June this Dornier 328-300JET arrived during the morning hours (flight SUS9175). OY-NCM is wearing full British Airways colors.



© Claude SCHMIT

Luxair goes Disney (Text & Photos by Serge BRAUN)

First time in the history of Luxair, the company is making publicity for a Disney movie called "Planes" and coming into cinemas in Luxembourg end of August 2013. Two stickers had been fixed on the left fuselage of the Boeing 737-800 LX-LGU.

The aircraft was first seen outside the hangar on 26th June. On 29th June it was presented with a water salute to the press and about 100 children with their parents in front of Luxair maintenance hangar at Findel.



Turkish Airlines new route Inauguration (Text & Photos by Serge BRAUN)

First arrival of a Boeing 737-800 of Turkish Airlines at Luxembourg Findel on 25th June 2013 and greeted by a water salute. After that a press conference was held at the first floor restaurant in Terminal 1. Four times a week (Days 2,3,5 and 7) Turkish airlines will fly from Istanbul-Atatürk to Luxembourg-Findel with either Boeing 737-800 or Airbus A319.



In only one week (24-29 June 2013) the Findel fire brigade had made 2 water salutes to a new company flying to Luxembourg and a Luxair plane with publicity stickers. As a spotter for nearly 30 years, I've never seen that in only one week. Seems that Luxembourg airport authorities and national air carriers are waking up. Congratulations.

Vueling Airbus with sharklets

On 2nd June Vueling operated their regular flight with an Airbus A320-200 (EC-LVS) with sharklets. EC-LVS was delivered in May 2013.



© Peter BAKEMA

Saudi Arabian for maintenance

On a regular basis Saudi Arabian Boeing 747's are present in Luxembourg for maintenance. On 18th it was TF-AAC (Boeing 747-400)



© Peter BAKEMA

The rare Antonov's

The Antonov's, for decades a common aircraft type here in Luxembourg, becomes more and more rare. This Antonov An-26, LZ-ABR (built in 1984), operated by Bright Aviation was present on 5th June 2013. Previously it was seen here in Luxembourg as YL-RAJ, UR-DWA and HA-TCS.



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June EU Meeting

Different aircrafts were present again for some EU meetings. The following ones were seen on 7th June 2013.



© Peter BAKEMA

French Government
F-RAFC – Falcon 2000LX



© Peter BAKEMA

Czech Air Force
0453 – CASA 295



© Peter BAKEMA

Swiss Air Force
T-785 – Falcon 900



© Peter BAKEMA

Turkish Republic
TC-ATA – Gulfstream IV

Spain Air Force

On 20th June a Spanish Air Force Airbus A310-300 (T.22-1 / 45-50) was seen in rainy weather. It already arrived the day before.



© Peter BAKEMIA

A Vampire in Luxembourg

On 21st June, some of us got a nice surprise when having a look at the airport webcam.

A De Havilland Vampire T.11, a WWII British jet, was seen on the webcam.

G-VTII is wearing the Royal Air Force color scheme.

The Vampire was flying primarily for the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1979.



© Administration de l'Aéroport de Luxembourg

Nicely colored Jetairfly

On the evening of 23rd June the following Boeing 767-300 (OO-JAP), operated by Jetairfly was parked in front of the Terminal.



© Tristan SULZBERGER

Emirates Triple 7

The first visit of an Emirates Boeing 777-300 was quite unexpected. On 17th June, A6-EGL operating the flight EK71 from Dubai to Paris, had to make a short stop in Luxembourg due to bad weather conditions at Paris airport. After spending 2 hours at P7 it continued to Paris CDG.



© Olivier BOUTON

Ukrainian Ilyushin Il-62

From 24th to 25th June the Prime Minister of Ukraine made a visit to Luxembourg. And as usual we were not disappointed by the aircraft he used. The Ilyushin Il-65M, UR-86528, arrived on 24th just after lunch and departed again a day later during the morning hours.



© Tristan SULZBERGER

Cessna 337 Skymaster

Less impressive than the 2 previous ones, but a quite interesting aircraft type. On 25th June this little Cessna 337 Skymaster, N337SL was seen taxiing.



© Peter BAKEMA

Impression from the Luchtmachtdagen 2013 at Volkel (Photos by Mike MORO)

The "Koninklijke Luchtmacht" celebrated this year its 100th birthday. On 14th and 15th June a quite impressive airshow took place at Volkel Air Base, with a nice line-up and a spectacular show.







All good things come to an end.

Already in 1968 the Luftwaffe signed a contract with McDonnell Douglas for 88 RF-4E, the unarmed reconnaissance version of the F-4E. The RF-4E was going to replace the RF-104G Starfighter. The RF-4E was designed strictly for export, and never served with the USAF. Luftwaffe service began on January 20, 1971 with AufklärungsGeschwader 51 "Immelmann" and AG-52.



The Luftwaffe had originally planned that the MRCA (Multi-Role Combat Aircraft, eventually to be named as the Tornado) would be the replacement for the Lockheed F-104G Starfighter in both interception and strike roles. However, by 1970 it had become clear that the interceptor version of the MRCA would not be ready in time to replace the F-104G in the interceptor role by the target date of 1975.

Consequently, the Luftwaffe decided to purchase a cost-reduced adaptation of the F-4E. This aircraft, designated F-4F, emerged as a lighter and simpler F-4E which was significantly cheaper and incorporated major components that were manufactured in Germany.

175 examples of the F-4F were ordered and delivery began on September 5, 1973. They equipped two interceptor wings (JagdGeschwader 71 'Richthofen' and JG-74 'Molders') and two ground attack wings (JagdBomberGeschwader 35 and JBG-36).



The 49th Tactical Fighter Wing of the USAF at Holloman AFB operated 24 German-owned F-4Fs to train Luftwaffe crews until 2002. These airframes carried USAF markings for insurance reasons, but also a German flag on the vertical stabilizer. In 1975, Germany also received ten F-4Es for training in the US. In the late 1990s, these were withdrawn from service, some were scrapped in the US while others found their way to Germany for use in maintenance training.



F-4F/ICE is the designation given to a substantially upgraded Luftwaffe F-4F. The Improved Combat Efficiency (ICE) program was initiated in late 1983 and was originally intended to produce an interim fighter with improved capabilities that would serve with the Luftwaffe pending the introduction of the Eurofighter 2000 into service. The ICE upgrade gave the F-4F the capability of carrying and launching the Hughes AIM-120 AMRAAM missile, and thus gave BVR (Beyond Visual Range) capacity.

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Originally it was foreseen to upgrade only 75 F-4Fs, but with the Unification and the full introduction of the Tornado in the fighter bomber role – which lead to the 2 JBGs to change into the interceptor role, and became JG -72 'Westfalen' (also responsible for the training of German F-4 crew in Europe after return from Holloman AFB) and JG-73 'Steinhoff' – this number changed to 110. The F-4F / ICE began entering service in 1992.

The Conventional Forces in Europe arms limitation agreement, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, and the Unification of East and West Germany caused the Luftwaffe RF-4Es to leave active service during 1993/94. AG-51's RF-4Es were replaced by Panavia Tornados, and AG-52 was disbanded altogether. Some 32 ex-Luftwaffe RF-4Es were transferred to Turkey. In addition, 20 ex-Luftwaffe RF-4Es were passed along to Greece.

The new Eurofighter 2000 / Typhoon II has been introduced into the Luftwaffe since 2003. JG-73 has traded in her Phantoms in 2002, preparing for the first Typhoon to arrive in 2004. With the F-4 being gradually phased out the Ausbildungsstaffel FlugLehrZentrum (FLZ) 72 F-4F was disbanded in 2005. On June 12th 2008 JG-74 decommissioned her F-4Fs after being in service with the squadron for almost 34 years. The F-4F / ICEs remained in service with JG-71 "Richthofen" at Fliegerhorst Wittmund.

The first Typhoons arrived at Wittmund in 2010. Eventually, on June 25th JG-71 flew the last operational mission with the F-4F. On June 28th aviation spotters had the chance to bid pharewell to the mighty F-4. Even the sky was crying that day: in really bad weather (drizzle and showers) several Phantoms could be photographed, some of which received special livery for the occasion. A day later, during the Airshow, the F-4 performed her last phly-by over Wittmund. After landing for the last time, the roar of the 2 J-79 engines was silenced: at that moment. JG-71 officially transitioned to the Eurofighter Typhoon II, marking the end of 43 years of Phantoms service and 40 years of F-4F service within the Luftwaffe.

Thank you 'Eisenschwein', 'Fliegender Ziegelstein', 'Big Smoker', 'Double Ugly', 'Rhino'.



**It was great having you in our skies .
Pharewell Phabulous Phantom !!**



Airline: Aeroflot
Registration: 5N-HAS
Aircraft: McDonnell Douglas DC-8-61
Date: 09.08.1991
Reason for visit: This Aeroflot DC-8 was leased for 6 weeks from Hold Trade Air. Probably one of the first (or maybe the first) Western aircraft type with Aeroflot colors just after the breakdown of the Soviet Union, seen here departing on runway 06.
Photographer: Claude SCHMIT

Luxembourg's Logbook: Passenger and Cargo Visitors

01.06.2013	EC-JUG	Swiftair	McDonnell Douglas DC-9-83
	PH-HZF	Transavia	Boeing 737-800
02.06.2013	5B-DCG	Cyprus Airways	Airbus A320-200
	EC-JCU	Aeronova	Fairchild SA227-AC Metro III
03.06.2013	M-OLLY	Private	Cessna 525 CitationJet 1
	VQ-BGZ	Air Bridge Cargo	Boeing 747-8F
04.06.2013	G-RHMS	TAG Aviation	Embraer ERJ-135BJ
	LX-DCA	Serlux	Cessna 525B CitationJet CJ3
	N497XP	Private	Hawker 400XP
	N625KA	AeroTree	Beech B300
05.06.2013	102001	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	69-027	Turkish Air Force	Transall C-160D
	CS-DGR	AirJetSul	Cessna 650 Citation 7
	EC-LCX	Aerodyanmic	Cessna 510 Citation Mustang
	F-HBFB	Private	Cessna 550 Citation 2
	LZ-ABR	Air Bright	Antonov An-26
	S5-ADE	Elite Avia	Bombardier BD-100 Challenger 300
06.06.2013	102001	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	14+04	German Air Force	Bombardier BD-700 Global 5000
	9H-VLZ	Private	Cessna 560 Citation 5 Ultra
	F-RAFC	French Air Force	Falcon 2000LX
	HB-IGI	CAT Aviation	Falcon 900EX
	MM62209	Italian Air Force	Airbus A319-100
	OE-FGK	SalzburgJet	Cessna 525 CitationJet
	VQ-BMT	Gama Aviation	Gulfstream IV
07.06.2013	0453	Czech Air Force	CASA 295M
	102004	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	EC-IAX	Private	Cessna 550 Citation 2
	G-URRU	Executive Jet Charter	Bombardier CL-600 Challenger 605
	MM62245	Italian Air Force	Falcon 900EX
	OE-FKO	AvconJet	Cessna 525A CitationJet CJ2+
	T-785	Swiss Air Force	Falcon 900
	TC-ATA	Turkish Government	Gulfstream IV
09.06.2013	102004	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
10.06.2013	258	Irish Air Corps	Learjet 45
	9H-WII	Private	Cessna 650
	F-HJAV	Private	Cessna 525 CitationJet 1
	LX-LXL	Global Jet	Falcon 50
	N86LF	Private	Hawker 4000
	OE-GMC	International Jet Management	Beech 400A
	OK-CAA	Civil Aviation Inspectorate	Cessna 560XL Citation Excel
11.06.2013	I-JAMY	Sirio	Falcon 2000
12.06.2013	69-033	Turkish Air Force	Transall C-160D
	LX-AVT	Luxaviation	Bombardier BD-100 Challenger 300
	OE-FXE	Speedwings	Cessna 525A CitationJet CJ2
	YU-BUU	Air Pink	Cessna 525A CitationJet CJ2+
15.06.2013	102005	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream V
16.06.2013	G-VITA	TAG Aviation	Falcon 7X
	VP-CUP	Private	Bombardier CL-600 Challenger 604
17.06.2013	A6-EGL	Emirates	Boeing 777-300
	LX-AFD	Global Jet	Falcon 900DX
	TS-IAM	Private	Bombardier CL-600 Challenger 604
	YU-BTB	Private	Cessna 550 Citation Bravo

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18.06.2013	102005	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream V
	F-HSUN	Corsair	Boeing 747-400
	I-VITH	Aliparma	Beech 400
	N854GT	Atlas Air	Boeing 747-8F
	TF-AAC	Saudi Arabian	Boeing 747-400
19.06.2013	102004	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	63-13189	Turkish Air Force	Hercules C-130H
	T.22-1	Spanish Air Force	Airbus A310-300
	TC-ISR	Palmari Air	Bombardier BD-100 Challenger 300
20.06.2013	102005	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream G550
	14+01	German Air Force	Bombardier BD-700 Global 5000
	9U-BFI	Republique du Burundi	Aerospatiale AS-350B
	F-RAFQ	French Air Force	Falcon 900
	LJ-3	Finnish Air Force	Learjet 35A
	M-AAAL	Private	Bombardier BD-700 Global Express
	M-UNIS	Private	Bombardier BD-700 Global Express
	N233MT	Private	Eclipse EA500
	PH-JND	JetNetherlands	Cessna 560XL Citation XLS
	SP-LIG	Polish Governement	Embraer ERJ-170
	T.18-4	Spanish Air Force	Falcon 900B
21.06.2013	251	Irish Air Corps	Gulfstream IV
	102004	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	EC-KTZ	Swiftair	Boeing 737-300F
	G-POWH	Titan Air	Boeing 757-200
	G-SVGN	Private	Cessna 680 Citation Sovereign
	G-VTII	Private	Vampire T.11
	G-ZAPZ	Titan Air	Boeing 737-300
	N102BQ	Private	Gulfstream IV
	OE-FHK	GlobeAir	Cessna 510 Citation Mustang
	TC-SGM	ULS Cargo	Airbus A310-300
22.06.2013	CM-02	Belgian Air Force	Falcon 20
23.06.2013	5105	Czech Air Force	Canadair CL-601 Challenger
	OO-JAP	Jetairfly	Boeing 767-300
	V-11	Koninklijke Luchtmacht	Gulfstream IV
24.06.2013	5105	Czech Air Force	Canadair CL-601 Challenger
	102001	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	14+01	German Air Force	Bombardier BD-700 Global 5000
	145-209	Hellenic Air Force	Embraer ERJ-135BJ
	CS-DGR	AirJetSul	Cessna 650 Citation 7
	F-GIXB	Europe Airpost	Boeing 737-300F
	MM62174	Italian Air Force	Airbus A319-100
	OH-WII	Jetflite	Bombardier CL-600 Challenger 604
	UR-86528	Ukraine Governement	Ilyushin Il-62M
	VQ-BLR	Air Bridge Cargo	Boeing 747-8F
25.06.2013	1257	Czech Air Force	Yakovlev Yak-40
	14+01	German Air Force	Bombardier BD-700 Global 5000
	71-01468	Turkish Air Force	Hercules C-130H
	CS-DLE	NetJets	Falcon 2000EX
	F-RAFC	French Air Force	Falcon 2000LX
	HB-IUW	Jet Aviation	Falcon 900B
	TC-JGR	Turkish Airlines	Boeing 737-800
26.06.2013	102001	Swedish Air Force	Gulfstream IV
	CS-DTD	Masterjet	Falcon 7X
	N515TJ	Private	Beech 400
	P4-KUL	Private	Embraer ERJ-135BJ

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27.06.2013	F-GSNA	Dassault Aviation	Falcon 900EX
	G-VTII	Private	Vampire T.11
28.06.2013	F-GSLZ	Private	Falcon 100
	LX-LXL	Global Jet	Falcon 50
29.06.2013	G-MPMP	Private	Bombardier CL-600 Challenger 604
	VP-BDS	Private	Cessna 525 CitationJet
30.06.2013	OY-NCM	Sun Air	Dornier 328-300 JET

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