

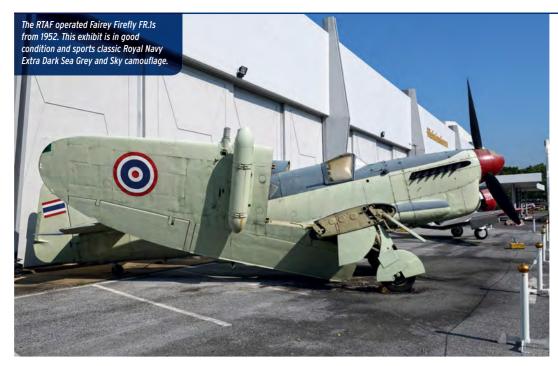




A Tachikawa Ki-36 'Ida' army co-operation/training aircraft, which is just one of two surviving airframes. Design of the type dates back to 1937.



With wings folded to denote its aircraft carrier associations, Curtiss SB2C-5 Helldiver '83410' basks in the Thai sunshine. The RTAF received six of these airframes.



being fought by three Thai pilots who took off from Watthana Nakhon airfield in their Hawk IIIs, to engage a formation of 20 Japanese fighters and fighter-bombers. Eventually a ceasefire was reached and the Thai government granted passage to the Japanese forces on their way to Malaya and Burma. This resulted in the US-led Allies beginning to bomb Thai territory - in response the RTAF managed to shoot down a B-29 Superfortress on November 27, 1944.

The RTAF museum was established in 1952 and has more than 50 aircraft/helicopter exhibits, among them one of just two Tachikawa Ki-36 trainers extant globally. More modern machinery includes the F-5A Freedom Fighter, MiG-21 Fishbed and A-37B Dragonfly.

By the time the RTAF was officially formed it consisted of five wings equipped with a mixed order of battle, including the following: 30 SPAD VIIs/XIIIs, 20 Avro 504N trainers, eight Breguet 14 multi-role aircraft, two Heinkel HD43 fighters, two Boeing 100E fighters, 12 Vought V-93S observation/attack aircraft;

Royal Thai Air Force **Museum**

171 Phahonyothin Road, Don Mueang, Khet Don Mueang, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon, 10210, Thailand www.rtaf.mi.th/en/Pages/ Tourist_Attractions.aspx 12 Curtiss Hawk IIs and 24 Curtiss Hawk IIIs; six Martin 139 WSM bombers and 12 Curtiss Hawk 75Ns.

Thai aircraft and personnel were involved in two major conflicts during the 1940s, starting with the so-called Franco-Thai War (October 1940 to May 1941), in which Thailand clashed with Vichy France regarding sections of what was then French Indochina.

The day after the raid on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), Japan, a former ally, attacked Thai territory in two areas to further its advance on British forces in Burma and Malaya. The Thais fought back, and several acts of resistance took place, one



