

# Freeman Army Air Field History

---

---

Freeman Army Air Field was built in just 9 months, started in May of 1942 and completed in February of 1943. The land was acquired from 27 area farms, and some of the farmers were none too happy. The original base had 4 runways, each 5580 feet long and 150 feet wide, and there were 413 buildings.

Freeman Field was an advanced training base. The cadets had already completed primary flight training and came here to learn to fly multi-engine aircraft. They would go on to fly bombers and cargo planes, not fighters. At the peak there were about 5000 military personnel stationed here, and approximately 4200 multi-engine pilots trained at Freeman Field. The principal training aircraft was the AT-10 "Wichita" built by Beech Aircraft. There were approximately 250 of them at Freeman Field. There was no civilian equivalent of the AT-10, and no original examples remain in existence today.

The Tuskegee Airmen were briefly stationed here in 1945, but racial difficulties caused them to move to a different base after just a few months. There were also WACS (Woman's Auxiliary Corps Service) and WASP's (Women's Air Service Pilots) at Freeman Field. The WASP's did test flying and

ferry (transfer) flights so the men could concentrate on flight training and combat.

The Freeman Army Air Field era ended in 1947 when the entire base was deeded over to the City of Seymour.

## Visiting the Museum

---

---

Admission: Free.

Hours: Open Saturday mornings 9:00 to noon, except for holiday weekends; other times by appointment. Call the Airport Manager's Office, 812-522-2031, to make an appointment or arrange a free tour. Groups welcome. Free parking.

## Donations

---

---

The Freeman Army Air Field Museum is a federally recognized 501.c.3 charity. We rely on donations to fund our operation and grow the collection. Items or cash donated to the museum are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation acknowledgement letters provided. Call 812-522-2031 if you have something to donate.

## Acknowledgements

---

---

The museum could not exist without the continuing support of the Seymour Municipal Airport Authority. We greatly appreciate the assistance of the airport manager and his staff.

## Seymour, Indiana



Beech AT-10. Photo courtesy of the USAF Museum.

# Freeman Army Air Field Museum

**Located just off I-65  
about half way between  
Indianapolis, IN and  
Louisville, KY**

**1035 "A" Ave.  
Seymour, IN 47274  
812-522-2031**

[www.freemanfield.org](http://www.freemanfield.org)

# Freeman Army Air Field Museum

---

---

Freeman Field in Seymour, Indiana is home to more than just the local airport and an industrial park. It is a living piece of history where visitors can see World War II buildings and occasionally view one of the WW-II aircraft that stop in from time to time. Return with us to the WW-II era as you visit the Freeman Army Air Field Museum.

The museum, founded in 1996, houses and displays many mementos from this bygone era. We have everything from training equipment to firearms, and an

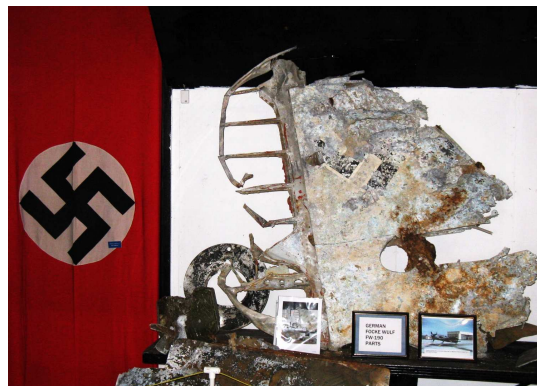


extensive collection of photographs showing life as it was at a WW-II Army Air Corps training field. Uniforms and personal items have been loaned or donated by local residents and the cadets who trained here. We have

detailed scale models, built by founding member Al Seibert, of all the types of aircraft that frequented the Freeman Field in the 1940's. Many captured German and Japanese items enhance the collection.

New items are added to the museum almost weekly. If you haven't stopped by for a few years the things that have been added will amaze you.

An impressive array of enemy airplane and rocket parts are on display at the museum. After the end of WW-II Freeman Army Air Field was an evaluation center for captured enemy aircraft. When the base closed most of the planes were dispersed to museums across the country, but many parts were buried in small landfill areas on the airport property. Two "digs" in the 90's turned up a lot of these parts, and we now have them on display. You can still make out the swastika on a tail section from a German Focke-Wulf 190.



In 2007 we acquired the original 1942 Ford/American LaFrance fire truck that was at Freeman Field, donated by founding member Harry Knight and his wife, Anna. It was made functional again in 2008 and is now driven in parades and historic events



During 2008 the museum cosmetically restored its WW-II flight simulator, called a Link Trainer.



The fire truck and Link Trainer will be displayed in the newly renovated museum annex building opening to the public in 2009.