

1942

SPITFIRE F Mk IX

BR601



- BR601 was the sixth Spitfire Mk.IX, built at Southampton during 1942
- First flight at Eastleigh, 16 June 1942
- Flown to 45 MU at Kinloss the next day
- 9 July, ferried by Polish ATA pilot Stefania Wojtulanis from Prestwick to Hornchurch, arriving 11 July
- Allotted to 64 Squadron, (first unit to receive Mk.IXs) First ops flown with Mk.IXs on 28 July
- 21 October 1942, Sqdn Ldr Colin Gray suffered a burst tyre on landing, resulting in undercarriage collapse and wing damage
- Repaired at 39 MU and issued to 453 (Australian) Squadron 2 April 1943
- 17 July 1943, issued to 129 (Mysore) Squadron, again at Hornchurch
- 28 August 1943, reallocated to 316 (City of Warsaw Squadron, a Polish Squadron based at RAF Northolt.
- 28 September 1943, placed on charge with 165 (Ceylon) Squadron at Culmhead, moving to Colerne later that month
- 19 March 1944, under repair again at Air Service Training, and repaired again at 8 MU on 29 August
- 27 February 1945, sent to Vickers Armstrongs for modifications, going into storage at Lyneham with 33 MU
- 27 January 1949, shipped to South Africa on board SS Clan Mackellar, arriving 13 March
- 16 March 1951, now serialled 5631, issued to the Air Operation School at Langebaanweg Air Base, suffering three landing accidents and being relegated to a ground instructional airframe with 7 Squadron.
- 10 March 1955, sold to scrap merchants, South African Metal & Machinery Co, Salt River, Cape Town
- Restored by apprentices from the Atlas Aircraft Corporation for static display on a pole in the scrap yard. Placed on display in 1976
- Sold to Doug Arnold in 1986 for £70,000 and stored at Biggin Hill
- 1994, sold to Jet Cap aviation and moved to Bartow, Florida where it remained untouched
- Transported to the Lone Star Flight Museum, Galveston, Texas
- Acquired by Jeff Thomas in January 2008 and sent to Avspecs at Ardmore, New Zealand
- 29 July 2009, acquired by Peter Monk, and fully restored for the Collings Foundation, Stow, Massachusetts, USA
- First flight after restoration 31st August 2016.