

GERMAN HANGARS AND AEROPLANE SHEDS

Part Two

via Barry Gray

THE INTELLIGENCE REPORT IDENTIFIED SIX main styles of aeroplane shed, plus several miscellaneous examples. Whereas the British used corrugated sheeting as cladding for their semi-permanent aeroplane sheds, the Germans preferred timber planking for both walls and roofs. Presumably, that on the roofs was tarred to provide extra protection from the elements.

TYPE A AEROPLANE SHED

This was a shed designed to hold a single machine. It came in 3 quoted widths – 40ft, 51ft and 60ft. The 51ft version was stated to have a depth of 42ft, the others one of 40ft, but these sizes appear to have been very approximate. The framework was of timber and knee-braces were added to support the wall posts on some examples. The door opening was on the front, with a single-pitch roof sloping to the rear. A pair of internal posts, at approximately half-depth, helped to support the roof on some variants of this type. Floors were usually earthen, but a wooden platform was laid over the central portion to take the undercarriage of the machine housed therein. On some examples that had been erected earlier in the war, the floors were subsequently covered with concrete and had the wall cladding replaced by brick infilling between the wall-posts. Small windows were usually let into the side and rear walls and there was a side door for access when the main ones were closed. Although some examples had doors that folded concertina-fashion, the majority had a small side-hinged door at each end of the opening and further drop-down doors in the centre. Those drop-down doors were hinged to a beam which ran across the front of the door opening. In the down position, the door acted as a ramp and also as an apron.

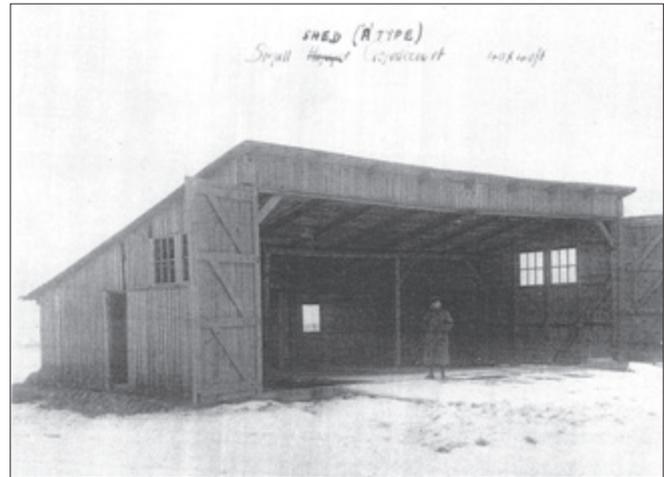
The smallest version was used to house scouts and featured a greater roof pitch angle than that on most of the larger versions. Most had two swinging and three drop-down

doors. The example illustrated in the report was found on Gondcourt aerodrome. Photographic evidence would suggest that the dimensions were closer to 34ft x 30ft.

Information on the 51 x 42ft version was based on an example at Genech aerodrome, on which all 12 doors were of the drop-down type. A 3-view drawing was provided but comparison with photographs suggests that the quoted front height of 25ft was excessive. The plans drawn for this article are, therefore, based largely on photographs.

The 60 x 40ft version was poorly described and illustrated but was also based on examples at Gondcourt. They would appear to have had a timber, lattice-work gantry above the door opening. Both of these larger variants of the shed were for housing C type two-seat machines.

An example of the smallest Type A shed was illustrated in the Intelligence file by this example at Gondcourt. The officer lent scale and this suggests that the door opening had a clear height of c.12ft.



The main features of the Type A aeroplane shed are shown in this shot of a pair of the smallest variety: the timber construction, the single pitch roof, the internal platform and the combination of swinging and drop-down doors. : Greg VanWyngarden

