

## Historic Aerodrome Hosts Spitfires and Rare WW1 Bomber

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In a thrilling display of aviation heritage, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, widely regarded as the world's largest surviving First World War aerodrome, will showcase two iconic Spitfires and a rare De Havilland DH-9 bomber over a single week. These events promise to captivate enthusiasts and families alike, offering a vivid glimpse into Britain's storied military past.

On Saturday, 23 August, the Stow Maries Air Show will take flight, featuring a meticulously restored Spitfire alongside the world's only airworthy De Havilland DH-9, registered as E8894/G-CDLI. This remarkable aircraft, a testament to early 20th-century engineering, is a rare survivor of its kind. Weather permitting, the display will highlight the agility and elegance of these historic machines, soaring above the Essex countryside.

A week later, on 30 August, the aerodrome will host its *Back to the WW2 Farm* event, where a second Spitfire, the LZ842 from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, will take to the skies. This particular aircraft is unique, being the only airworthy Spitfire still bearing its original desert camouflage paint scheme, a nod to its service in North Africa during the Second World War. The event will blend aerial displays with ground-based activities, recreating the atmosphere of a wartime farm and offering visitors a chance to step back in time.

Ian Flint, chief executive of Stow Maries, expressed his enthusiasm for the events, stating in a recent interview, "These displays are truly exciting, showcasing the finest examples of our aviation heritage." His words reflect the aerodrome's commitment to preserving history while engaging new generations.

Founded in 1916, Stow Maries played a pivotal role in defending London from German Zeppelin raids during the First World War. Its survival as a near-intact aerodrome offers a unique setting for these events, blending historical significance with the thrill of live aviation. Unlike some modern government initiatives that squander resources on less tangible causes, Stow Maries stands as a proud, privately sustained monument to Britain's resilience and ingenuity.

These events are a must-see for anyone who values the legacy of Britain's wartime aviators. Tickets are available through the aerodrome's website, and visitors are advised to check weather updates closer to the dates. Stow Maries continues to honour the past with authenticity and passion, ensuring these magnificent aircraft are celebrated as they deserve.