

SPAIN

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ALBACETE/LOS LLANOS

The Spanish AF's first tanker aircraft were three ex USAF Boeing KC-97L Stratocruisers which served with Esc.123 of Ala.12 here. The first of these, KC-97L TK.1-1/123-01 (ex 53-0172, noted '84-'85) was preserved in a playground about half way between the base and the city of Albacete (on route C3211) but moved to a location by the A7 motorway North of Barcelona by late '88. TK.1-3/123-03 (ex 53-0189), was preserved on the base here with Ala Logistica 53 (noted '79-'84) but was moved to Cuatro Vientos for the Museo del Aire by 4.87.

There were also a couple of surplus C-97Gs delivered here as spares sources only (the USAF had cut through the wings to ensure they were never made airworthy). 53-0241 went from here to Sotillo De La Adrada whilst 53-0275 is believed to have been scrapped on site.

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BARCELONA/SABADELL

Alongside the A7 motorway to the North of the city by late '88 were Boeing KC-97Ls TK.1-1/123-01 (ex 53-0172) from Albacete and TK.1-2/123-02 (ex 53-0225) from Tarancon. They are both preserved at the 'Saint Cugat Airport', a huge discotheque equipped with runway lights, hangars, restaurant, swimming pool etc!

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CUATRO VIENTOS

Located some 10 kms South West of Madrid, the base at Cuatro Vientos houses the Museo del Aire (Spanish AF museum) which was opened to the public on 14.3.82. The following aircraft have been recorded with the museum recently.

Boeing KC-97L TK.1-3 (ex 53-0189) ex '123-03' Ala.12 (noted in car park 4.87-'89).

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SOTILLO DE LA ADRADA

Ex New York ANG C-97G Stratocruiser 53-0241 (delivered to 'Albacete as a spares source) moved here when it reached the end of its usefulness. It served as a discotheque until 2.2.85 when it was unfortunately burnt out. Nothing now remains.

TARANCON

Some 80 kms South East of Madrid on the NIII/E101, Boeing KC-97L TK.1-2/123-02 (ex 53-0225, ex Esc.123/Ala.12) lingered here as an attraction at a cafe. The machine had been removed by 1987 and reappeared in 1988 alongside the A7 motorway North West of Barcelona.

page 305 (photo):

Boeing KC-97L TK.1-3/123-03 being reassembled in 2.89 (Dave Weinrich)

Source:

Mike Bursell: "European Wrecks & Relics",
Midland Counties Publications Ltd.,
Earl Shilton/Leics. (UK), 1989