



Connecticut Flitzer Werke

Famous Photographer Finds Rib Making a Snap



Aviation photographer Mike Vines served a brief apprenticeship at the Connecticut Flitzer Werke in August, where he assisted in the manufacture of five upper wing ribs for the resurrection of the Baron Ivan Morrisov machine.

Progress continues apace. Recent milestones include:

- Completion of all upper and lower wing ribs;
- Completion of all compression ribs;
- Completion of all root ribs;
- Lamination of all four wingtip bows.

Delivery of all materials and spars for wing assembly.

Flitzer - the Link with the Past

Bavaria was, for just two weeks in 1919, the Bavarian Soviet Republic. The monarchy had been overthrown and the ruling Communists and anarchists aligned the state with the Russian Bolsheviks. That May the 30,000-strong proto-fascist *Freikorps*, together with 9,000 "White Guards of Capitalism" (including White Russian mercenary Baron Ivan Morrisov, looking for work after fighting with the counter revolutionaries alongside the legendary ace Alexei Kazakov) invaded the Bavarian Soviet Republic and defeated the Communists.

Baron Morrisov remained in



The current Baron Ivan Morrisov.

Bavaria, becoming a flight instructor at the *Sportflug GmbH für Mittelfranken und Oberpfalz* at Furth, near Nuremberg, where he

was well known in European sporting circles for his personal mount, a 1926 *Staaken Flitzer* adorned with the Death or Glory pennant of Kazakov's old Tsarist squadron. The school grew to become the second largest pilot training establishment in Germany.

Baron Morrisov emigrated to the USA but never realized his goal of flying the *Flitzer* in a Hollywood movie.

Three generations later his aircraft is being resurrected by skilled craftsmen in Connecticut, shining a new light on Europe's checkered history in the aftermath of World War 1.



The *Flitzer* mystique carried over to luxury products for the discerning sportsman. Pictured here is a label from 1924 depicting a rare *Wasser-Flitzer* biplane.



Supply Chain Gears Up



Wingtip vortices? Or a Flitzer-schnapps still?
No, just steam around the wood strips as they are softened
prior to bending and being laminated into wingtip bows.

How many clamps do you use, a fellow *Flitzer* builder asked?
All of them! was the answer.

Manufacture of four wingtip bows takes a total of 120 ft.
of 1/8 x 3/4-inch spruce strips.

Flitzer Werke Renovated

