

LOCK ON N°21
AIRCRAFT PHOTO FILE
799

Mikoyan **MiG 21 MF**
FISHBED

Zoltán BUZA
edited by Willy PEETERS

VP

The world in scale



MiG-21 MF
1. "Puma" Század
"Szentgyörgyi Dezső" Harcászati Repülőezred
Magyar Légieó



Cover: Scorching in the hot summer sun in a spartan revetment, a routine workday begins for this MiG-21 of the 1st "Puma" squadron based at Kecskemét. Exposure to the elements has turned some areas on fuselage and wings a bit paler.

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This book is dedicated to the memory of those Hungarian fighter pilots who, in the final moments of their life, were struggling very desperately to regain control of their ill-fated MiG-21, only to find their efforts in vain.

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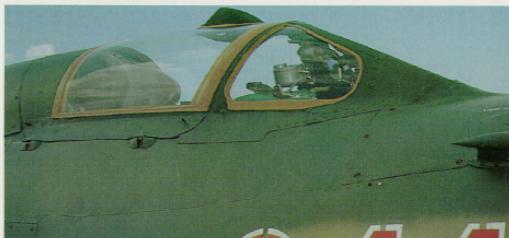
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The CIS (ex Soviet) aircraft are subject of both withdrawal and various upgrade programs. OKB Mikoyan also offers foreign operators a refurbishing program to retrofit MiG-21's with modern digital avionics and the latest air-to-air missiles.

Having had experience with the earlier generations of the MiG-21, the Magyar Légierő (Hungarian Air Force) received its MF's between 1971 and 1974. The Kecskemét based 59 Honi Vadászrepülő-ezred took over its aircraft from other fighter wings between 1976 and 1978. Later the wing adopted the name of Szentgyörgyi Dezső, the top scoring Hungarian fighter ace of WWII with 33 confirmed aerial victories. Both the 1."Puma" and 2."Dongó" (bumble-bee) Század (squadron) wear emblems of WWII fighter units.

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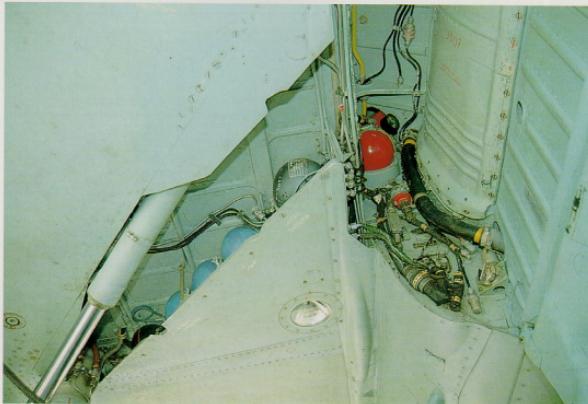
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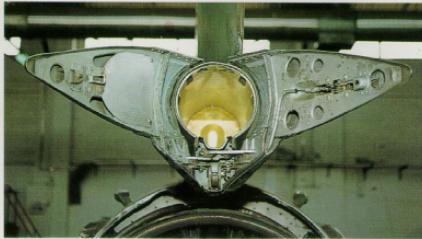
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Hydraulically operated main wheel rotates 87° inwards to be stowed almost vertically into the fuselage wheel well. Pressurized air operates the gear in case of a hydraulic system fault. The struts have hydro-pneumatic shock absorbers with enough space to incorporate a 2,231 pressurized air tank. To keep the wheels nearly vertical, even when retracted, a complex mechanical linkage system (the "parallelogram") is installed at the bottom of the leg. Bulges on the main gear door and fuselage provide sufficient space for the low pressure, 800 x 200mm KT-92B "rough terrain" tires. These 11 ply tires hold some 10 to 30 landings. Laterally mounted is an anti-skid sensor similar to the one of the nose gear leg.

Forward in the main well one can see filling valves and filler point of the pneumatic system as well as the attachment point of the hydraulic gear actuator. In the upper right corner of the photo above is the UP-53 electropneumatic valve of the anti-skid system.



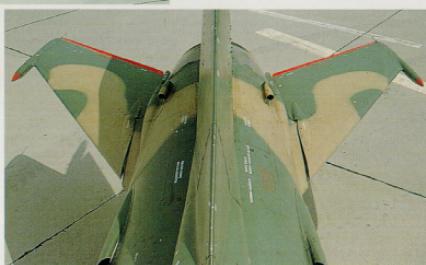
The MiG-21, because of its high landing speed, is equipped with a split drag chute cone in the bottom of the vertical tail, loaded with a PT-21UK brake chute which helps to shorten the landing roll and lessen the wear on brakes and tires. Chute deployment at 1m above ground level is possible, but it's never done to avoid overstress on the airframe.

A late winter sun glints off the characteristic contours of an inbound MiG21-MF heading for its revetment. No armament is carried and no belly fuel tank installed. The drag chute has already been jettisoned and will be retrieved by ground crew members. These 16m² drag chutes are later packed with an extraction chute on top and installed by members of the maintenance crew.



Port and starboard side tail differences can only be found below the horizontal tailplane. At left can be seen the long narrow fairing starting just aft of the wing trailing edge, covering the nozzle hydraulic lines.

The starboard side features a generator cooling intake with MRP-56P radio beacon receiver panel below it, clearly shown on the centerfold photo. On top of the vertical tail are (from front to rear) a dielectric panel covering the aerial of the RSIU-5V (R-802) communications radio, three small rods for the SRZO-2 IFF system and a cone housing the SOD-57M transponder aerial. The small fairing aft of the insignia accommodates the ID-2 induction sensor of the KSI-2 compass and the protruding SPO-10 "SIRENA" radar homing and warning system.



Two small cooling intakes on top serve the nozzle actuator while the larger ones forward cool air to the afterburner section. The forward part of the ventral fin is shared by the ARK-10 radio compass aerial and the LAZUR ground control intercept data link.

The mechanically actuated rudder has a 20° deflection to both sides. A BU-210B hydraulic booster rotates the all-moving, sway-braced stabilators (with anti-flutter counterweights at the tips) which deviation changes automatically according to speed and altitude by the ARU-3V unit. Maximum deflection is 7°30' up, 16°30' down in flight, 13° up and 28° down on the ground.

At left, lower fuselage detail such as engine hot air exhaust, SPRD rocket attachment point and release system, and engine compartment cooling disc valves is visible.



The SPS boundary layer system blows air over the flap upper surfaces, providing additional lift during landing. Flap setting for landing is 45° while a 25° setting is appropriate for take-off. The high pressure hot air bleed from the compressor is passed through the heat resistant ducting along the leading edge of the flaps. When the SPS is selected, the afterburner is blocked and the dry thrust decreases some 10kN.

This sun bleached MiG21 on display features alternative tail markings in that the star of the upper (and lower) wing surfaces is repeated on the vertical tail in lieu of the fin flash as carried today. Note the camouflage pattern of both aircraft is quite similar. Colors closely resemble the following FS colors: Light Green /FS34598, Dark Green /FS34092 and Light Brown /lighter shade of FS30219.

The smaller photo at close left clearly illustrates the inferior heat resistance of these paints around the exhaust area.



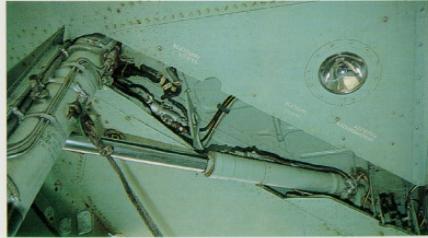


The white R-3S (K-13) IR homing missiles are carried on APU-13M launchers attached to BDZ-60-21D pylons on the outboard stations. Its IR head and IR proximity fuse are protected with red plastic covers, and the impact fuses in the control fins have black caps. This missile is 2837mm long and has a diameter of exactly 127mm. Weight is 75.3kg with 11.3kg blast fragmentation warhead, covering a lethal radius of 10-11 meters. It can be launched at an altitude up to 21000 m (65000 feet) and has a 9 km (6 miles) effective range.

Fully armed MiG21MF on stand-by with all protective covers, safety chord and pins in place. Wing leading edge antennas are: a small dielectric panel covering the SOD-57M transponder in front of the wing fence, the SRZO-2 (IFF) aerial next to the red navigation light and finally the SPO-10 SIRENA (RWR) aerial. The T-shaped aerial close to the wing tip belongs to the RVUM radio altimeter.



Below is a view at the retractable MPRF-1A light on port side. The pilot can select either power, 200W for landing or 130W for taxiing.



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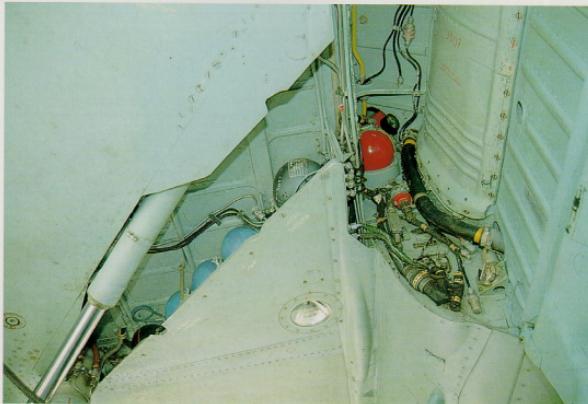
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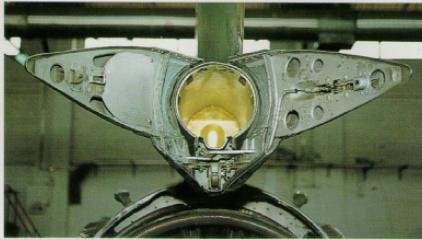
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Forward in the main well one can see filling valves and filler point of the pneumatic system as well as the attachment point of the hydraulic gear actuator. In the upper right corner of the photo above is the UP-53 electropneumatic valve of the anti-skid system.



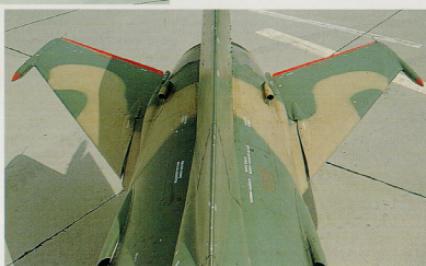
The MiG-21, because of its high landing speed, is equipped with a split drag chute cone in the bottom of the vertical tail, loaded with a PT-21UK brake chute which helps to shorten the landing roll and lessen the wear on brakes and tires. Chute deployment at 1m above ground level is possible, but it's never done to avoid overstress on the airframe.

A late winter sun glints off the characteristic contours of an inbound MiG21-MF heading for its revetment. No armament is carried and no belly fuel tank installed. The drag chute has already been jettisoned and will be retrieved by ground crew members. These 16m² drag chutes are later packed with an extraction chute on top and installed by members of the maintenance crew.



Port and starboard side tail differences can only be found below the horizontal tailplane. At left can be seen the long narrow fairing starting just aft of the wing trailing edge, covering the nozzle hydraulic lines.

The starboard side features a generator cooling intake with MRP-56P radio beacon receiver panel below it, clearly shown on the centerfold photo. On top of the vertical tail are (from front to rear) a dielectric panel covering the aerial of the RSIU-5V (R-802) communications radio, three small rods for the SRZO-2 IFF system and a cone housing the SOD-57M transponder aerial. The small fairing aft of the insignia accommodates the ID-2 induction sensor of the KSI-2 compass and the protruding SPO-10 "SIRENA" radar homing and warning system.



Two small cooling intakes on top serve the nozzle actuator while the larger ones forward cool air to the afterburner section. The forward part of the ventral fin is shared by the ARK-10 radio compass aerial and the LAZUR ground control intercept data link.

The mechanically actuated rudder has a 20° deflection to both sides. A BU-210B hydraulic booster rotates the all-moving, sway-braced stabilators (with anti-flutter counterweights at the tips) which deviation changes automatically according to speed and altitude by the ARU-3V unit. Maximum deflection is 7°30' up, 16°30' down in flight, 13° up and 28° down on the ground.

At left, lower fuselage detail such as engine hot air exhaust, SPRD rocket attachment point and release system, and engine compartment cooling disc valves is visible.



The SPS boundary layer system blows air over the flap upper surfaces, providing additional lift during landing. Flap setting for landing is 45° while a 25° setting is appropriate for take-off. The high pressure hot air bleed from the compressor is passed through the heat resistant ducting along the leading edge of the flaps. When the SPS is selected, the afterburner is blocked and the dry thrust decreases some 10kN.

This sun bleached MiG21 on display features alternative tail markings in that the star of the upper (and lower) wing surfaces is repeated on the vertical tail in lieu of the fin flash as carried today. Note the camouflage pattern of both aircraft is quite similar. Colors closely resemble the following FS colors: Light Green /FS34598, Dark Green /FS34092 and Light Brown /lighter shade of FS30219.

The smaller photo at close left clearly illustrates the inferior heat resistance of these paints around the exhaust area.





Fully armed MiG21MF on stand-by with all protective covers, safety chord and pins in place. Wing leading edge antennas are: a small dielectric panel covering the SOD-57M transponder in front of the wing fence, the SRZO-2 (IFF) aerial next to the red navigation light and finally the SPO-10 SIRENA (RWR) aerial. The T-shaped aerial close to the wing tip belongs to the RVUM radio altimeter.



Below is a view at the retractable MPRF-1A light on port side. The pilot can select either power, 200W for landing or 130W for taxiing.

