MOSQUITO MK IV BOMBER Revell

H-180-380

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Considered one of the most outstanding aircraft of World War II, the De Havilland Mosquito came very close to being cancelled even before the prototype had been flown. The Mosquito owed its success, and near elimination, to two concepts which were so unique that it was difficult for the British Air Ministry to accept them. The first was the proposal for a bomber capable of flying fast enough that it need not carry defensive weapons; the second was that this bomber would be built of wood!

The wooden bomber concept came into being as a result of the realization that war would sharply curtail the flow of aluminium. The De Havilland Company had built many successful wooden aircraft, notably the DH-88 Comet, which had won the England-Australia air race in 1934. In the age of all-metal, stressed-skin aircraft, it was very unusual even to think about a wooden bomber capable of outperforming the newest fighters. Official interest was shallow, but construction of a proto-

type was approved.

Any question concerning the Mosquito's capabilities vanished when the prototype was flown on November 25, 1940. The "Wooden Wonder" was ordered into production and the sleek, nimble bomber began a career that was to be a constant irritation to the Germans. The Mosquito proved to be so fast that it could indeed run away from the German fighters. Because of this great speed, a bold plan was drawn up to harass the German leaders. On January 31, 1943, Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering was to speak following a parade in Berlin. As the announcer began to introduce the Reichsmarschall, he was suddenly interrupted by the nearby explosion of bombs. Over the rooftops appeared three Mosquitos of No. 105 Squadron racing across the city. The planned rally became a mass of confusion, and it was more than an hour before Goering began his speech. He was so infuriated by the interruption that he ordered two experienced fighter squadrons withdrawn from Russia and relocated in Berlin to intercept the Mosquitos. Despite this, the wooden bombers roamed freely across the German skies beyond the reach of the Nazi fighters. Eventually squadron was dissolved without ever downing one Mosquito

The dosquito's wooden surface was finished like a fine piece of furniture in fact, a large part of the plane was built by furniture makers. The plywood outer skin was covered with fabric and doped to a smooth,

in turn led to the very high performance of the wooden bomber. Even with one engine out, the Mosquito could maneuvre nearly as well as with

both engines turning.
Production of the Mosquito increased and its combat roles were expanded. It was developed for use as a fighter, photo reconnaisance craft, and ten were even used as airliners by BOAC. Such a remarkable airplane was bound to attract the attention of England's allies. The U.S. Army Air Corps designated their Mosquito aircraft F-8 and used them in photo work. Canada and Australia set up production lines and assembled over one thousand Mosquitos for themselves and the United Kingdom. Over

5,500 Mosquitos were completed by the end of the war. The Mosquito initially carried a bomb load consisting of four 250 lb. general-purpose bombs. Eventually Mosquitos were carrying single 4,000 lb. "Block Buster" bombs, or four times their designed capacity.

De Havilland's wooden warplane stirred the imagination of the world. Even the Germans tried to copy the plane, but they were unable to match its excellent performance until the introduction of their jet bombers.

Revell's model of this classic airplane illustrates the sleek lines of the remarkable wooden bomber. The markings supplied with the model are for an aircraft of No. 105 Squadron, the first group to receive the Mosquito bomber. We are grateful to John W. Caler for his assistance in this project and for the cooperation of the Mosquito Appeal Funds' Museum at Salisbury Hall, London Colney, Hertfordshire, England.

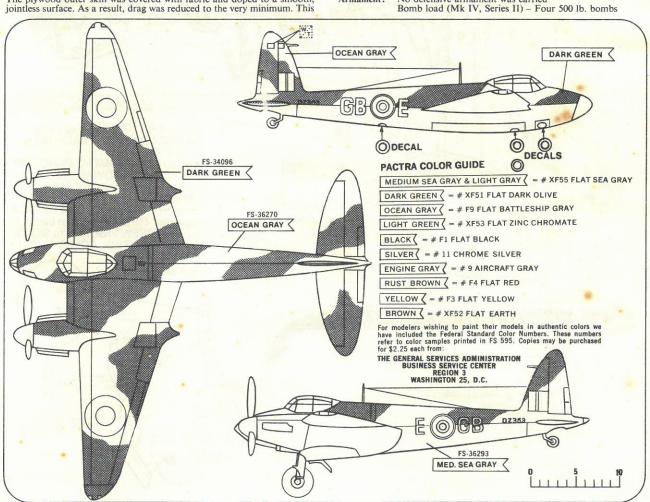
DE HAVILLAND MOSQUITO B.IV SERIES II

Wingspan - 54 feet 2 inches Length - 40 feet 9½ inches Dimensions:

Power Plant: Two Rolls Royce Merlin twelve-cylinder, liquid-cooled engines of 1,460 hp. each

Performance: Maximum speed - 380 mph Cruise speed - 265 mph Service ceiling - 34,000 feet Maximum range - 2,040 miles

No defensive armament was carried Armament:



GET YOUR TOOLS READY:



KNIFE
TO DETACH
AND TRIM
PARTS
FILE
TO REMOVE
EXCESS
PLASTIC



TWEEZERS
TO
PICK UP
AND
HOLD
SMALL
PARTS



CEMENT
USE
TOOTHPICK
PAINT
BRUSH
OR PIN
TO
APPLY IT



TAPE AND CLOTHES PINS TO CLAMP AND HOLD PARTS UNTIL THEY ARE DRY



DO NOT DETACH PARTS UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE THEM! PARTS ARE NUMBERED TO HELP YOU FIND THEM. LOOK FOR THE NUMBER ON TAB NEXT TO PART OR ON PART ITSELF.

FIRST, FIT PARTS TOGETHER and TRIM EXCESS PLASTIC. Use a toothpick, pin or small paint brush to apply cement. APPLY CEMENT SPARINGLY. Too much cement will damage your model.

NOTE: In the illustrations some of the details on the parts have been OMITTED FOR CLARITY.

IF YOU WISH TO PAINT YOUR MODEL — See PAINTING FLAGS _______ for color suggestions.

- . Use paints made for plastics only.
- Paint small parts before detaching from runner.
- . Start with the lighter colors.
- Scrape off paint where cement is to be applied. Cement will not work on paint.

