Roodecal

1:32 MIRAGE IIIo recommended kit REVELL



The Mirage IIIo has been the backbone of the RAAF's fighter force for nearly twenty years. In the late 1950's the RAAF had narrowed their search for an Avon Sabre replacement to two aircraft, Lockheed's F-104 Starfighter and Dassault's Mirage IIIc. The former was the favourite, but a last ditch effort by Dassault resulted in an extended fuselage Mirage with increased range that met the RAAF's demanding specification. This version was the Mirage IIIe which, with some 178 modifications, became the Mirage IIIo in RAAF service. One hundred of this variant and sixteen of the two-seater Mirage IIId were received by the RAAF.

The first unit to receive its aircraft was 2(F) OCU at Williamtown, N.S.W. in 1964. The first operational squadron to convert to Mirages was 75 Sqn. which became operational in 1965, then followed 76, 3, and 77 Sqns. 76 Sqn. was subsequently disbanded but the others still remain operational; 77 Sqn. and 20 OCU based at Williamtown in N.S.W., and 3 and 75 Sqns. at Butterworth in Malaysia, where they have operated for a number of years.

Attrition has been relatively severe, some 32 aircraft having been written off, but when viewed against the long period of service of the type, this is probably not abnormally high.

A feature of the RAAF's Mirage fleet has always been its bright unit marking emblazoned on the fin. This sheet presents a cross-section of these markings for all the units currently flying Dassault's durable delta.







