

Aircraft Fact File

First World War



Bristol M1c

- In the spring of 1916 casualties among Royal Flying Corps' aircrew began to mount as their aircraft were no match for the Fokker monoplanes used by the Germans
- The M1c was designed and had great performance but many pilots preferred biplanes to monoplanes - so not many were ordered



Sopwith 1 1/2 Strutter

- The Sopwith two-seater, quickly named the 1½ Strutter, was designed in 1915 as a high performance fighting aircraft.



Sopwith Pup

- The Pup, thought of by its pilots as the perfect flying machine, was used extensively by the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps both at home and abroad
- The first Pups reached the Western Front in the autumn of 1916.

Aircraft Fact File

Second World War



Spitfire

- The Spitfire was used for short ranged, quick attacks on other planes or bases. It had 8 Browning machine guns so was mainly used in dog fights
- Due to the shape of the Spitfire's wings it was able to reach higher speeds than most planes including the Hurricane
- Over 20,000 Spitfires were manufactured



Hurricane

- The Hawker Hurricane accounted for over 60% of the victories during the Battle of Britain
- Hurricane's were typically deployed against German bomber aircraft
- Hurricane's were exported all over the world to Britain's allies



Defiant

- Defiant's were different to other fighter planes because their guns were in a rotating turret and could fire in any direction. They had two crew: one man was the pilot and the other aimed the guns
- After the Battle of Britain, the British only flew Defiants at night. In this way they could attack the German bombers that also flew at night, and avoid the German fighters because they only flew during the day



Mosquito

- Originally intended to be a bomber, the Mosquito was very fast and could fly a long way and carry heavy loads. Therefore, it was adapted to a number of other roles such as fighter, night fighter, night intruder, attack, reconnaissance and pathfinder
- The Mosquito was made mostly out of wood - it was nicknamed "The Wooden Wonder"



Me109

- The Messerschmitt Bf 109 was a fighter aircraft usually called the Me109. It was a German Second World War aircraft used by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force)
- Overall, the Me109 was the most produced fighter aircraft in history, with a total of 33,984 airframes produced from 1936 up to April 1945



FW190

- The Focke-Wulf 190 was used as a day fighter, fighter-bomber, ground-attack aircraft and to a lesser degree, night fighter
- It could lift larger loads than the Me109

Aircraft Fact File

Cold War



Hunter

- The Hawker Hunter is a transonic British jet-powered fighter aircraft that was developed during the late 1940s and early 1950s
- The first Hunter prototype broke the air speed world record at 727.63mph in 1953



Vulcan

- The Avro Vulcan is a jet-powered delta-wing strategic bomber, known as one of the three "V-Bombers"
- The Vulcan was the backbone of the UK's airborne nuclear deterrent throughout the Cold War



Valiant

- The Vickers Valiant is a jet-powered delta-wing strategic bomber, known as one of the three "V-Bombers"
- The Valiant was the first of the V force to become operational and was the only one to drop live nuclear weapons



Victor

- The Vickers Valiant is a jet-powered delta-wing strategic bomber, known as one of the three "V-Bombers"
- The Victor was the last of the V Force to enter service with the RAF, and eventually became a refuel tanker for Vulcan aircraft during the Falklands War



Dakota

- The Dakota is a military transport aircraft, used extensively during the Second World War and into the Cold War
- It was used during the Berlin Airlift and the Korea and Vietnam Wars - where it was used as both transport and a gunship



Lightning

- The English Electric Lightning is a British fighter aircraft that served as an interceptor during the 1960s, the 1970s and into the late 1980s
- It was capable of a top speed of above Mach 2 (over 1,290 mph)
- The aircraft could fly faster than the speed of sound in a vertical climb