

# Bristol Beaufighter Ic

**The Bristol Beaufighter was a fighter development of the Beaufort light bomber. The Royal Australian Air Force used imported and Australian manufactured Beaufighters in large numbers during the Pacific War.**

The Munich Crisis of 1938 forced the British to improvise a fighter version of the Beaufort and development began in October 1938. The prototype first flew on 17 July 1939 and they began entering service in July 1940. Over 5500 were manufactured in Britain and they proved very successful. Seventy-two Beaufighters were supplied to Australia where they began RAAF operations with 30 Squadron against the Japanese from September 1942. In 1944 and 1945 a total of 364 Beaufighters Mk.21 were manufactured in Australia for RAAF service.

This model represents British built A19-34 in service with 30 Squadron, RAAF, c.1943.

**Data:** two-seat strike fighter. *Engines* two Bristol Hercules XI radial engines of 1,185kW (1590hp) each. *Wing span* 17.63m (57ft 10in). *Length* 12.60m (41ft 4in). *Maximum take-off weight* 9435kg (21,100lbs). *Maximum speed* 520km/h (323mph). *Range* 1883km (1170miles). *Armament* four 20mm cannon and six .303 machine guns.

*High Planes* 1:72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 1998.



**THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM**