

# Vickers Valiant B.1

**The Vickers Valiant was the first of Britain's V-Bombers designed to deliver nuclear weapons at long range. A Valiant was the first aeroplane to drop an atomic bomb over Australia, at Maralinga in October 1956.**

At the end of World War II Britain began developing a new generation of long-range bombers capable of delivering atomic bombs at high speed and high altitude. The first was the Vickers Valiant, the prototype flying on 18 May 1951. The first pre-production Valiants were flown in 1953, they entered service in 1955 and flew operationally during the Suez Campaign of late 1956. A total of 107 Valiants were produced but the development of anti-aircraft missiles meant bombers had to attack at low altitude to evade detection and this accelerated the Valiant's wing spar fatigue so they were withdrawn from service in 1965.

**Data:** *Engines* four 4559kg (10 050lb) Rolls Royce Avon turbojet engines. *Wing span* 34.85m (114ft 4in). *Length* 32.99m (108ft 3in). *Maximum take-off weight* 63 503kg (140 000lb). *Maximum level speed* 912km/h (567mph). *Range* 7242km (4500 miles). *Armament* conventional or nuclear bombs to maximum bombload of 9592kg (21 000lb), no defensive armament. *Crew* 5.

*Welsh Models* 1:144 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 1998.



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