

Royal Aircraft Factory RE8

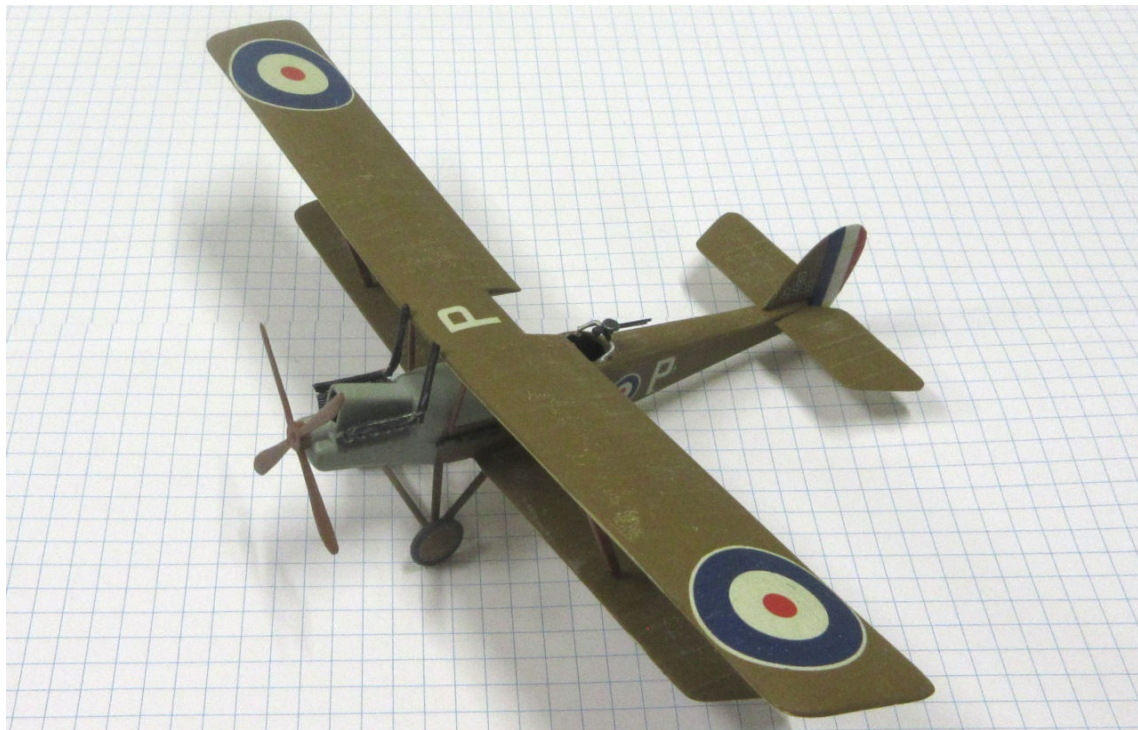
The RE8 was designed to perform reconnaissance and artillery spotting roles. It was a satisfactory aeroplane, over 4 000 were produced and served on various fronts until the end of World War I.

Development of the RE8 began in early 1916 to meet the Royal Flying Corps requirement for an aeroplane to perform general reconnaissance and observation duties. Early tests were conducted in mid 1916 and small numbers entered service late that year. It was an inherently unstable design that was difficult to fly but, in the absence of anything better, 4077 were manufactured. They were deployed extensively from early 1917 and operated in Italy, Palestine and on the Western Front, performing well thanks to the courage and dedication of their crews.

This model represents D4689 of 3 Sqn Australian Flying Corps, March 1918.

Data: *Engine* one 112kW (150hp) RAF 4a V-12 piston engine. *Wing span* 12.98m (42ft 7in). *Length* 8.50m (27ft 10½in). *Maximum take-off weight* 1301kg (2869lb). *Maximum level speed* 164km/h (102mph). *Armament* one forward-firing 7.7mm (.303in) Vickers machine gun and one pivot mounted Lewis gun. *Crew* 2.

Airfix 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in August 1998.



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