

# Bloch 131

The Bloch 131 was designed to perform the multiple roles of bomber and reconnaissance aeroplanes. Development began in 1934 but deliveries did not begin until 1938 and it was obsolete when World War Two started in 1939.

The Bloch 130 series was designed to fill a requirement for a fighter, bomber and reconnaissance aeroplane. The prototype flew on 29 June 1934 and forty were ordered despite its poor performance. The design was improved and the new version first flew in May 1937. Production began at the end of that year and deliveries to the French Air Force began in late 1938. However, when fighting began they suffered extremely heavy casualties and were restricted to night operations. After the Armistice a few were used as target tugs.

This kit represents No.65 of 2 Escadrille of GRI/14 in September 1939.

**Data:** *Engines* two Gnome-Rhone 14N-10/11 radial engines of 708kW (950hp). *Length* 17.85m (56ft 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in). *Wingspan* 20.27m (66ft 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in). *Maximum take-off weight* 8600kg (18,960lb). *Maximum speed* 349km/h (217mph). *Range* 1300km (808 miles). *Armament* three 7.5mm (0.295in) MAC machine guns and a bomb load of up to 800kg (1764lb). *Crew* 4.

*Mach 2* 1:72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 2008.



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