

Armstrong Whitworth Meteor NF.14

The Armstrong Whitworth Meteor NF.14 was the final mark of the night fighter version of the Gloster Meteor fighter. They flew for the Royal Air Force during the 1950s before being replaced by purpose built night fighters.

Development of the Gloster Meteor into an interim night fighter equipped with air intercept radar was undertaken by Armstrong Whitworth. The prototype of the first version, the NF.12 made its maiden flight on 31 May 1950 and they began entering service in 1951.

The final version of the night fighter Meteor was the NF.14 which had a more advanced radar and a large bubble canopy to improve visibility. One hundred were ordered and they began entering service in February 1954. By early 1956 they were being replaced by Gloster Javelins although the last ones were still flying for the RAF as late as 1961.

This model represent a Meteor NF.14 WS729 in service with 153 Squadron, RAF, at West Maslling in 1957.

Data: *Engine* two Rolls Royce Derwent 8 turbojet engines of 15.9kN each. *Wing span* 13.11m. *Length* 14.78m. *Maximum take-off weight* 8,976kg. *Maximum speed* 871km/h. *Range* 1,530km. *Armament* four 20mm Hispano cannon. *Crew* two. *Matchbox* 1/72 kit with *Modeldecal* decals. Completed in September 2014.



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