

# Gloster Meteor F.8

The Gloster Meteor was the first British jet fighter and the improved F.8 version saw service in the early 1950s. The RAAF flew Meteor F.8s during the Korean War where they were effective ground attack aircraft.

Development of the Meteor began in 1940 and the first Meteor flew on 5 March 1943. They entered the Royal Air Force service in July 1944. The Meteor F.8 was a refined version of earlier Meteors. The prototype first flew on 12 October 1948 and they began entering service with the RAF in August 1949. They were also sold to many countries including Belgium, Denmark, Syria and Brazil.

The RAAF ordered 94 aircraft which were delivered from early 1951. They served with 77 Squadron in Korea where they were an effective ground attack aircraft.

This model represents Meteor F.8 flown by Sergeant George Hale of 77 Squadron, RAAF, in Korea in March 1953.

**Data:** Single seat fighter. *Engines* two Rolls Royce Derwent 8 turbojet engines of 16kN thrust each. *Wing span* 11.33m.. *Length* 13.59m. *Gross weight* 7,121kg. *Maximum speed* 970km/h. *Range* 970km. *Armament* four Hispano 20mm cannon and under wing bombs and rockets. Crew 1.

*Airfix* 1/72 kit with kit and *Aussie Decals* completed by Leigh Edmonds in May 2023.



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