

Gloster Meteor



The Gloster Meteor was the first British jet fighter and the only Allied jet to see combat in WW2. It entered service as a day fighter with the RAF in 1944 and continued to serve in various roles after the war. It was powered by two wing-mounted centrifugal-flow jet engines, had unswept wings, and was armed with four 20 mm guns.

Versions

Meteor F.8

The F.8 was a post-WW2 development of the late-WW2 F.4. It had more powerful Rolls-Royce Derwent 8 engines, a lengthened fuselage, a new tail to solve center-of-gravity problems, improved visibility from the cockpit, and provided the capability to carry air-to-ground weapons.

In common with many early jet fighters, it had short endurance and range compared to contemporary propeller-engined aircraft, and this was partially addressed by equipping it with a jettisonable, conformal ventral fuel tank.

The unsophisticated aerodynamics of the Meteor led it to be outclassed by newer swept-wing fighters like the MiG-15 and F-86, and so the F.8 was the last fighter version produced. Subsequent versions were reconnaissance and night fighters.

It was introduced into RAF service in 1949 and served until it was replaced by the Canadair Sabre 4 and Hawker Hunter in the 1950s. It was also used by No. 77 Squadron RAAF in the Korean War, replacing their F-51Ds in April 1951 and serving until replaced by the CAC Sabre. Also, it served in the air forces of Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Ecuador, and the Netherlands.

Meteor FR.9

The FR.9 was a photoreconnaissance version of the F.8. It had an extended nose for a single camera that could be

configured on the ground to be either overhead or oblique and retained the full combat capability of the F.8.

It served in the RAF from 1950, the Ecuadorian Air Force, the Israeli IAF, and the Syrian Air Force.

Armament and Stores

The internal armament of the Meteor was four 20 mm Hispano V cannons.

A typical air-to-air load was the ventral 175-gallon fuel tank, perhaps with two 100-gallon fuel tanks under the wings to increase patrol time.

A typical air-to-ground load was two 1000 lb bombs or eight or sixteen RP-3 rockets in addition to the ventral tank.

Combat

The F.8 saw combat with the RAAF in the Korean War, mainly in the ground-attack role. In the Suez Crisis, the F.8 was used by the Egyptian, Syrian, and Israeli air forces, and the FR.9 by the RAF.

ADCs

ADCs are provided for:

- Meteor F.8
- Meteor FR.9

Photo Credit

- Gloster Meteor: Chris Phutully (CC BY 2.0)

Meteor F.8										Crew: Pilot														
										Maneuver HFPs/DPs: LR/DR 1.0 1.5 VR 0.5														
Turn DPs: CL 1/2 DT TT 0.0 0.0 0.0 HT 0.0 1.0 1.0 BT 1.0 1.0 1.0 ET — — —																								
															Cruise Speed: 4.0 Restr. Arcs: — Climb Speed: 2.5 Blind Arcs: 30– Visibility: 5 Internal Fuel: 164 Size: +0 AtA Refuel: No Vulnerability: +0 Ejection Seat: Early									
Speeds and Ceilings										Climb Capabilities														
Alt. Band		Conf. Ceil.		CL 44		1/2 42		DT 40		Dive Speed		CL AB Oth		1/2 AB Oth		DT AB Oth		Alt. Band						
EH+		46+		—		—		—		—		— —		— —		— —		EH+						
VH		36–45		2.5 – 5.0		2.5 – 4.5		2.5 – 4.5		5.5		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.25		VH						
HI		26–35		2.0 – 5.5		2.5 – 5.0		2.5 – 4.5		5.5		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.25		HI						
MH		17–25		1.5 – 5.5		2.0 – 5.0		2.0 – 4.5		6.0		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.50		MH						
ML		8–16		1.0 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.0		6.0		— 1.00		— 1.00		— 0.50		ML						
LO		0–7		1.0 – 5.5		1.0 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.0		6.0		— 1.00		— 1.00		— 0.50		LO						
Radar: —					ECM: IFF					Weapon Stations Diagram:														
ECCM: —					RWR: —																			
Arcs: —					DDS: —																			
Search: —					DJM: —																			
Track: —					AJM: —																			
Lock-On: —					BJM: —																			
Guns: Four 20 mm Hispano V					Technology:					Load Point Limits: CL : 0–2														
To Hit: 6/4/3					None					1/2: 3–5														
Ammunition: 7.0										Weight Limit: 3,600 DT : 6+														
Gunsight: TT+0/HT+1/BT+2										Station Limit Allowed Loads														
Ranging: —										1 and 3 1,000 BB FT														
AtA/AtG: 5/6*										2 1,600 FT														
										4–7 and 8–11 200 RK														
Bomb System: Manual										Load Notes:														
Notes: 1. The Gloster Meteor F.8 is a fighter and fighter-bomber. It is a development of the WW2 F.4, with more powerful Rolls-Royce Derwent 8 engines, a lengthened fuselage and a new tail to solve center-of-gravity problems, improved visibility from the cockpit, an ejector seat, and the capability to carry air-to-ground weapons. 2. High transonic drag (HTD). Low roll rate (LRR).										1. Either stations 1 and 3 or stations 4 to 11 can be used.														
										2. Stations 1 and 3 can each carry a 100 gal (450L) FT.														
										3. Ventral station 2 can only be used to carry a special jettisonable conformal 175 gal (800L) FT. While carried, the FT restricts the maximum speed to 4.0.														
										4. Stations 4 to 11 can each carry two RP-3 RKs or one HVAR RK.														
										VPs: 6/4/2/1										v1 0000000 0000-00-00T00:00:00				

Meteor FR.9										Crew: Pilot									
										Maneuver HFPs/DPs:									
LR/DR		1.0		1.5															
VR				0.5															
Power APs/DPs/FPs: ○○										Turn DPs:									
CL		1/2		DT		Fuel		CL		1/2		DT							
AB		—		—		—		TT		0.0		0.0							
M		1.0		1.0		1.0		HT		0.0		1.0							
N		0.0		0.0		0.5		BT		1.0		1.0							
I		0.5		0.5		0.0		ET		—		—							
SPBR		0.5		0.5		—													
					Cruise Speed: 4.0 Restr. Arcs: —														
					Climb Speed: 2.5 Blind Arcs: 30–														
					Visibility: 5 Internal Fuel: 164														
					Size: +0 AtA Refuel: No														
					Vulnerability: +0 Ejection Seat: Early														
Speeds and Ceilings										Climb Capabilities									
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EH+		46+		—		—		—		—		— —		— —		— —		EH+	
VH		36–45		2.5 – 5.0		2.5 – 4.5		2.5 – 4.5		5.5		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.25		VH	
HI		26–35		2.0 – 5.5		2.5 – 5.0		2.5 – 4.5		5.5		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.25		HI	
MH		17–25		1.5 – 5.5		2.0 – 5.0		2.0 – 4.5		6.0		— 0.50		— 0.50		— 0.50		MH	
ML		8–16		1.0 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.0		6.0		— 1.00		— 1.00		— 0.50		ML	
LO		0–7		1.0 – 5.5		1.0 – 5.5		1.5 – 5.0		6.0		— 1.00		— 1.00		— 0.50		LO	

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Arcs: —			DDS: —								
Search: —			DJM: —								
Track: —			AJM: —			Load Point Limits: CL : 0–2					
Lock-On: —			BJM: —								
Guns: Four 20 mm Hispano V			Technology: None								
To Hit: 6/4/3											
Ammunition: 7.0						Weight Limit: 3,600 DT : 6+					
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						2 1,600 FT					
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