



SQUITO, FIGHTER VERSION. NOTE INTRICATE WOODWORKING IN WINGS AND FUSELAGE. WING SPAN IS 54 FT., 2 IN.; LENGTH 40 FT. 9½ IN.; HEIGHT 15 FT., 3 IN. MOSQUITO BOMBER, MADE ALMOST ENTIRELY OF WOOD, CAN FLY WITH 2,000-POUND BOMB LOAD FROM ENGLAND TO BERLIN AND BACK IN ABOUT THREE HOURS

R.A.F. MOSQUITO BOMBER

Almost entirely of wood, Britain's Mosquito bomber can sting the enemy out of proportion to its size and appearance. Thirty-odd German cities already have felt the devastating, impressive bite of Mosquitoes in more than 150 bombing raids on the Reich.

Only entirely new operational aircraft designed since the war began, the 'Squito is being turned out in England and in De Havilland's large Canadian factory. Most unusual feature of the "peanut bomber" is its plywood and balsa construction, furnished for Canadian output by Pacific Northwest spruce, hemlock and fir trees. Packard Motor Car Co. makes the twin Rolls-Royce engines.

The first Mosquito was designed as a bomber capable of outdistancing fighter pursuit. Its great success has inspired several versions. There is a modified Mosquito that operates as a long-range fighter. Its "stingers" include four 20 mm. cannons and four .303 caliber machine guns, all mounted in the nose for concentrated firing. Another model is used as a dual control trainer. Other versions are used as day bombers, fighter bombers, night intruders, photo reconnaissance bombers.

The R. A. F. considers the Mosquito the fastest combat plane in the world. Top speed is a secret, but the British admit it will fly more than 400 miles an hour. High speed is attained with a 2,000-pound bomb load and enough fuel for a round trip from England to Berlin.

A two-man crew, pilot and co-pilot, operates the tiny plane. On a bombing mission, co-pilot crawls into the nose and acts as bombardier.

Advantages of the Mosquito's wooden construction: does not require vital aluminum; will float several hours on water; bullet holes are easier to patch.