



FOKKER D. XXI

The Fokker D. XXI single-seat fighter, which succeeded the line of successful fighter aircraft that were developed in Holland in the years between the World Wars, such as the D. VII, D. X, D. XI, D. XII, D. XIII, D. XIV, D. XVI and D. XVII, would be the last fighter of Fokker-design to be produced in quantity.

Though of orthodox design, a steel-tube fuselage and wooden wing, this sturdy fighter would see more action during the war than other types of Fokker aircraft.

Originally designed according to a specification of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army, the prototype, powered by a 645 hp radial Bristol 'Mercury' engine, made its maiden flight on March 27, 1936.

For the Fighter Arm of the Luchvaart Afdeling of the Dutch Army thirty-six D. XXI fighters were built at Amsterdam. By this time it also attracted attention of other governments, amongst others Finland which ordered seven D. XXI's for the airforce and acquired license rights for Valtion Lentokonehuolto, the State factory at Tampere. In 1939 thirty-five Bristol 'Mercury'-powered D. XXI fighters were manufactured in Finland, followed by an additional fifty in 1941 and five in 1944, these being powered with the Pratt & Whitney 'Twin Wasp Junior' of 1,050 hp.

Denmark followed Finland with an order for three D. XXI aircraft and a manufacturing license for the Royal Danish Army Aircraft Factory in Copenhagen. At the outbreak of war Nr. 2 Eskadrille consisted of Fokker D. XXI fighters.

During the hostilities in Holland in May 1940 the D. XXI fighters of the 1st, 2nd and 5th Fighter Group fought a gallant battle against an overwhelming invader.

The Finnish Airforce's D. XXI fighters were used in the winter war against Russia and this sturdy stable gun platform performed an extremely good job with Squadrons HLeLv 32, 24 and TLeLv 12 of the Finnish Air Force.

Type: Single seat, low-wing fighter with four 7.9 mm machine guns. Engine: 830 hp Bristol 'Mercury' or 1,050 hp P. & W. 'Twin Wasp, jr.'

Main data: Span: 36' 1"; length: 26' 10.75"; height: 9' 8"; wing area: 174.375 sq. ft;

empty weight: 3,197 lb; all-up weight: 4,519 lb; max speed: 240 mph; range 590 miles; climb to 3,280 ft. in 1.15 min., to 9,840 ft. in 3.4 min., to 19,685 ft. in 7.5 min.; service ceiling was 36,100 ft.

