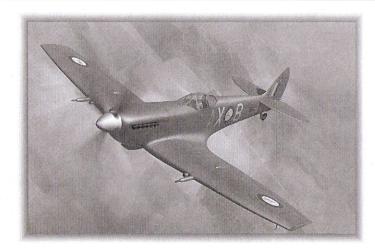
SW 72068 scale: 1/72





Merlin 66, which powered most late-production Spitfire IX's was also made in the U.S.A. by Packard. Due to the fact the Packard-Merlin was built to U.S. tolerances, metric scale and required a complete set of its own tools, the RAF to avoid mishaps has decided to call this version of Spitfire XVI and squadrons re-equipped with Spitfire XVIs, were completely re-equipped by this type.

The Mk XVI entered production in September 1944, and remained in production until August 1945, the first unit to take the type on operational charge was 443 Squadron RCAF. Early Mk XVIs were equipped with the "c" wing (four 20mm cannon or two 20mm cannon and four .303in machine guns). Later models used the "e" wing (two .50in machine guns instead of the four .303s).

From February 1945 the Mk XVI used the bubble canopy with cut down fuselage as seen on late Mk IXs and following Spitfire versions. The first bubble-canopy Spitfire XVIs appeared in 74 Squadron in April 1945. The majority of the 1,053 Mk XVIs produced had clipped wings, which improved their rate of roll. After the war, Spitfire XVI saw service with squadrons of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, prior to its

disbandment in 1952, as well as Anti-Aircraft Cooperation Squadrons in Great Britain. In abroad XVIs were used by Belgian and Hellenic AF.

## Spitfire Mk. XVIe in International services

scale: 1/72

