

ArtiFactsheet: Bristol F.2B

The U.K. designed Bristol Fighter was the most successful two-seat combat aircraft of the First World War. It was initially designed as a reconnaissance machine, the Bristol Fighter's robust design, powerful engine, good manoeuvrability and relatively heavy armament enabled it to excel as a fighter aircraft.

In light of the increasing losses of outdated reconnaissance machines, the origins of the Bristol Fighter began with a Royal Flying Corps (U.K.) request for a two-seat reconnaissance aircraft that was capable of defending itself. Before their potential was recognized, a number of Bristol Fighters were lost when they were flown in tight defensive formations calculated to give the observer a favourable shot. Only when crews realized that this large and seemingly unwieldy aircraft had all the speed and manoeuvrability of the German single-seated fighters did it become the most successful two-seat fighter of the First World War.

For more information about the Bristol F.2B visit ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/collection-research/artifact-bristol-f2b-fighter.php.

Many artifacts related to aviation and First World War planes can be found in the collection of Ingenium – Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation: ingeniumcanada.org/ingenium/collection-research/collection.php.

Artifact Details

Bristol F.2B, 1918
Manufacturer: Bristol Aeroplane Company
Artifact no. 2006.0022

The Bristol F.2B found at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum was built in 1918. It was restored by Historic Aircraft Collection in the U.K. from the early 1980s to 2006. In 2006, it flew in several aerial displays in Britain. The Museum then acquired the fighter through an aircraft trade later that year.

Fun Fact

Numerous Canadian airmen flew Bristol Fighters during the First World War. One of the most celebrated was Lt.-Col. Andrew McKeever.

