

Through ice and snow
they flew,
with only a compass
to guide them

When you see the big jets of today flying around the world at near supersonic speeds, it is hard to imagine that just over 50 years ago the aeroplane was regarded by many as little more than a crazy contraption. The First World War, however, brought about some exciting developments with aircraft rapidly increasing in size, speed and range.

In 1919, the Australian Government offered a prize of £10,000 (\$20,000) to the first Australian to fly from Britain to Australia in under 30 days. With scores of others, Ross and Keith Smith decided to take up the challenge and chose one of the biggest aircraft available, the Vickers Vimy, to tackle the 11,294 mile journey.

Their flight in the open cockpit Vimy will live forever as an epic of courage and endurance. With only a compass, a ground speed and drift indicator and rather inaccurate maps, they flew half way around the world, encountering seemingly endless hazards. Often, their helmets and goggles iced up so they flew without them, huddled forward against the icy blasts.

Twice, while flying below storm clouds, they nearly crashed into mountain peaks, and in India, at Allahabad,

a huge black bull threatened to charge and wreck the Vimy as it prepared to take off! On and on they flew, to Burma, Thailand, Java, Timor, plagued by delays and with time running out fast! It was touch and go, but at 3 p.m. on December 10, they set down on Bathurst Island, near Darwin, 27 days and 20 hours after they left England. They had done the impossible — with 52 hours to spare! Australia went wild, and the world sat up and took notice of these two daring Australians. Ross and Keith Smith were both knighted for their heroic feat, and for the first time Australia and Britain were linked by air.



Commemorating
50th Anniversary
FIRST ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA FLIGHT, 1919



VICKERS VIMY

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE : Starboard Wing is not shown on the instruction sheet. (Same as Port Wing assembly).

1. Locate and cement together Parts 1 to 6.
2. Locate and cement in position Parts No. 7. Allow to dry.
3. Locate and cement together Parts 8 to 14 to make engine assemblies, making sure that Parts 8 are able to rotate.
4. Cement and locate Parts 15 to 19 to engine assemblies Parts 8 to 14, then cement and locate the complete units in position with Part 20. See Figs. 1 and 2 for position.

It is recommended that the instructions and exploded view are studied and assembly practised before commencing. Use Frog or Britfix Polystyrene Cement and Frog or Humbrol Paints. It may be necessary in some cases to mix two or more colours to obtain shades required. Paint all small parts

before assembly. Keep cement well away from face, eyes and clothing. Our model is of the "Vimy" as constructed by the manufacturer but Parts 39, 40, 41 and 44 were not fitted to the aircraft for the Transatlantic flight.

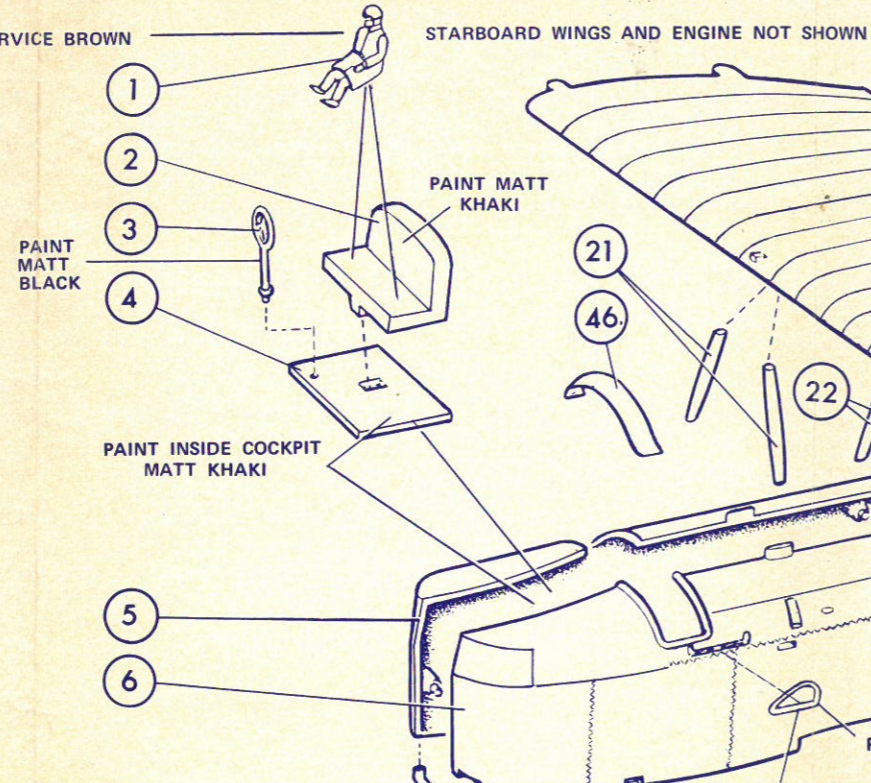
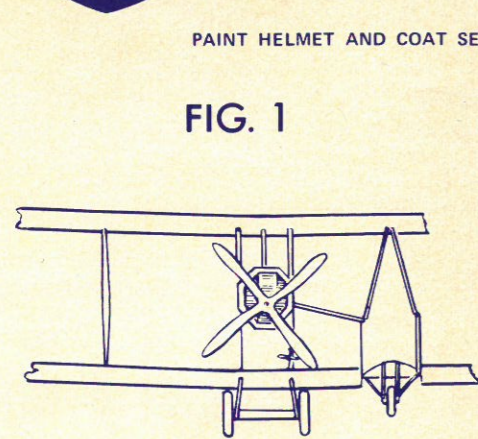
5. Locate and cement in position Parts 21 and 22.
6. Locate and cement in position Parts 23 and 24. Allow to dry.
7. Locate and cement in position Parts 25 and 26, making sure that they are movable.
8. Locate and cement in position Parts 27 to 34, making sure that Parts 30 are movable.
9. Locate and cement in position Parts 35 to 37. Locate in position Parts 38. To retain spread ends of pins on Parts 35 with a hot knife blade.

10. Locate and cement in position Parts 39 to 41, making sure that Part 39 is movable.
11. Locate and cement in position Parts 42 to 46.
12. Apply transfer. Dip into water for about half a minute, slide off backing into position on stand base.
13. Cement together stand and locate arm of stand in slot on model.

PAINT HELMET AND COAT SERVICE BROWN

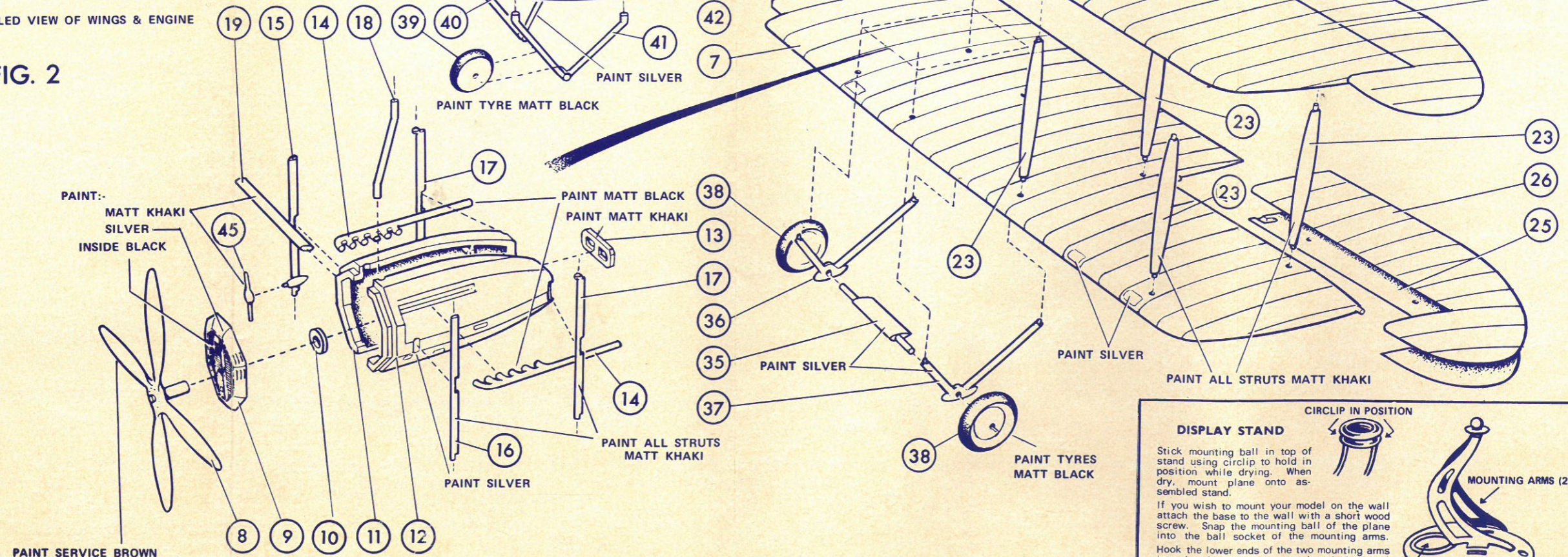
STARBOARD WINGS AND ENGINE NOT SHOWN

FIG. 1



ASSEMBLED VIEW OF WINGS & ENGINE

FIG. 2



DISPLAY STAND

CIRCLIP IN POSITION

Stick mounting ball in top of stand using circlip to hold in position while drying. When dry, mount plane onto assembled stand.

If you wish to mount your model on the wall attach the base to the wall with a short wood screw. Snap the mounting ball of the plane into the ball socket of the mounting arms.

Hook the lower ends of the two mounting arms into the slots in the base and push the metal circlip over the ball socket into its groove.

PLACE TRANSFER HERE