

FLIGHT COLOUR

44

Miles Martinet T.T.1

The wooden-structured Miles Martinet was designed to Air Ministry Spec. 12/41 calling for a two-seat target-tug, and made its first flight in April 1942. Based on the Master trainer the Martinet had a longer nose to compensate for the altered c.g. resulting from the extra weight of the towing gear in the rear cockpit. Both wind-driven and motorised winches could be installed with flag and sleeve drogue targets. Over 1,700 Martinets were built for the RAF between 1941 and 1945 and served with 16 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation squadrons, one air-sea rescue unit and a number of Air Gunnery Schools and OTUs. A radio-controlled version called the Queen Martinet was designed in 1943 and a total of 65 production aircraft was built. The Martinet T.T.1 was powered by an 870 h.p. Bristol Mercury XX or XXX giving a maximum speed of 237 m.p.h. at 15,000ft. The aircraft in the photograph, HN862, is a standard production aircraft built by Phillips and Powis at Woodley and flown by test pilot Tommy Rose. *Charles E. Brown copyright photograph, taken during the 1939-1945 war with early American Kodak colour film, and published by "Flight," London SE1, 1971*