



VF-57 Operation Benedict, WWII

Following the attack by Germany on the Soviet Union, Operation Benedict was the operation by Royal Air Force aircraft together with the Voenno-Vozdushnye (Russian Air Force) against the German Luftwaffe and the Suomen Ilmavoimat (Finnish Air Force) airfields in the Murmansk region.

Hawker Hurricanes of the 151st Fighter Wing – a consolidation of the RAF's 81 and 134 Squadrons – were shipped by sea and also on board the aircraft carrier HMS Argos, to Russia. The Hurricane aircraft operated from Vaenga Airfield (now Murmansk Int); primarily as bomber escorts against Finnish and Norwegian airfields.

Suggested Aircraft

Hawker Hurricane

Mission Legs

1. Fly hi-level escort for Soviet bombers from Murmansk (ULMM) and overfly target airfield at Ivalo, Finland (EFIV). Return to Murmansk - 236nm.
2. Fly hi-level escort for Soviet bombers from Murmansk (ULMM) and overfly target airfield at Banak, Norway (ENNA). Return to Murmansk - 364nm.
3. Fly low-level escort for Soviet bombers from Murmansk (ULMM) and overfly target airfield at Kemijarvi, Finland (EFKM). Return to Murmansk - 356nm.
4. Night flight. Fly hi-level escort for Soviet bombers from Murmansk (ULMM) and overfly target airfield at Kautokeino, Norway (ENKA). Return to Murmansk - 422nm.

NOTAMS:

Total mission distance 1,378nm.

4 flights required for ribbon credit.

Hurricane combat radius 600nm.