Unfortunately this aircraft was lost after only 7 days in a take-off accident at Dübendorf on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A fourth MK.1 was ordered as a replacement.

Not to be discouraged, however, the Government ordered 75 DH-100 Mk.6 'Vampires' at the end of 1948. These aircraft were to be built by De Havilland, while a further batch of 100 Vampires were to be built under license in Switzerland.

Deliveries from Hatfield started on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1949. The aircraft were flown to Switzerland by De Havilland company pilots and in particular by John Cunningham, who at that time was the company's chief pilot. A total of 75 DH-100 Mk.6 Vampires were flown into Switzerland registered J-1005 – J-1079. In the meantime, the manufacturing lines for the license built DH-100s were being set up in Emmen, Altenrhein and Buochs. 100 Vampires (J-1101 to J-1200) were delivered to the Swiss Air Force between 1951 and 1953. The Goblin Engines were still built in the UK and flown to Switzerland by Ju-52 aircraft.

In 1953, F+W Emmen (in co-operation with De Havilland) built 3 DH-115 Mk.11 Vampire Trainers (U-1001 — U-1003). Three years later an additional batch of 7 Vampire trainers (U-1004 — U-1010) were produced and on this occasion the Mk.55s were equipped with Martin Baker Mk.3B ejection seats. In 1957, however, these aircraft were re-registered U-1201 — U-1210. By 1967 a total of 39 DH-115 Mk.55 were being flown by the Air Force, the last 9 of them being surplus RAF aircraft.

Additionally, a single DH-113 NF (night fighter) Mk.10 (U-1301) was purchased in 1958 by the KTA for trials and as a test bed for equipment used in the DH-112 Venom project. This aircraft was not modified with ejection seats and was therefore liquidated soon afterwards in 1961. An attractive 'Wasp' paint scheme adorned this aircraft.

Vampire fuselages were built from plywood and painted silver. The wings, tail booms and control surfaces were made of aluminum. While the De Havilland build Vampires were equipped with a double-glassed metal-framed hood, while the license Swiss build aircraft used a single glass frameless canopy.

During 1960, all Vampires were modified and received Martin Baker Mk.2/V ejection seats, thus requiring extensive modification of the cockpit rear bulkhead. The canopy required modifications and had to be strengthened. The ring control stick got modified with a fighter type control grip. Also, the early Spitfire-like 3-spoke wheels got replaced with ones that looked similar to the ones used on the Venom.

Also in 1960, three additional Vampires were assembled from spare-parts (J-1080 – J-1082) by F+W Emmen.

The Vampire spent a colourless life without squadron badges or special schemes. Due to strict security during cold war years, only few pictures of flying Vampires are available today. By the end of the sixties most of the original De Havilland built Vampires got retired due to high airframe hours. The remaining Vampires got withdrawn from frontline duty and received orange bands and speed brakes, denoting them as training aircraft.

The Swiss Vampire is most known abroad for the Pinocchio Nose and later for the colourful scheme as a target aircraft. During 1974 – 75, the aircraft received additional avionic equipment and in particular a transponder. As

space was not available, additional room for the equipment had to be made in the extended nose.

All remaining Vampires were withdrawn from service in January 1991.



Robert Schneider Müllheim, May 2022





## De Havilland



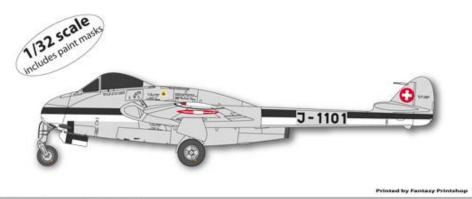
## DH-100 Mk.6 'Vampire'

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The lesson learned during WWII was that Neutrality must be defended—and it comes at a cost! After the war, it became clear that the Moranes and Messerschmitts would not be adequate in lieu of the forthcoming aircraft that were in development worldwide. As a stop gap measure, some 100 surplus P-51 Mustangs were purchased from USAAF stock during 1948.

However already in 1946 the KTA (Weapons Procurement agency) ordered 3 De Havilland DH-100 Mk.1 Vampires for evaluation purposes. J-1001 was handed over at the De Havilland plant in Hatfield on July 27th 1946.



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