

## Lockheed Ventura model added to Heritage Centre collection

A 1:72 scale model of the relatively unknown Lockheed Ventura is now available for viewing at the Heritage Centre. The Lockheed Ventura was a twin engine medium and patrol bomber in World War II, used by the USAF for maritime patrols, which entered service with the Royal Air Force in late 1942. The Ventura was developed from the Lockheed Model 18 Lodestar transport, as a replacement for the Lockheed Hudson medium bomber, then in service with the RAF. It was used mainly in daylight attacks against occupied Europe and as a communications, training and transport aircraft.



The Ventura was never very popular with RAF crews. Although it was 50 mph (80 km/h) faster and carried more than twice as many bombs as its predecessor, the Hudson, it proved unsatisfactory as a bomber. By the summer of 1943, the Ventura had been replaced by the de Havilland Mosquito, in the

bombing role. The last Ventura bombing raid was flown by 21 Squadron on 9 September 1943.



No. 299 Squadron was formed on 4 November 1943 from 'C' flight of 297 Squadron at **RAF Stoney Cross**, equipped with Ventura Mk. Is and Mk.IIs, as a Special Operations squadron, dropping supplies and equipment to the French and Belgian Resistance partisans, by night. The aircraft served with 299 Sqn from November 1943 to January 1944, when it was replaced by the Short Sterling Mk IV.



This model shows the Ventura in the light bomber configuration, which is displayed in the Heritage Centre in a case with a mirror base, to show the bomb load more clearly.