

by PETER M. BOWERS



Scale Aircraft DRAWINGS

by PETER M. BOWERS



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter M. Bowers began to build model airplanes soon after Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic in 1927. He began to write for publication in the mid-1930s when the editors of model aviation publications, including Model Airplane News, asked him to write articles and draw up plans for his outstanding models.

From 1940 to 1942, he studied aeronautical engineering at the prestigious Boeing School of Aeronautics, and he began to amass one of the largest, most comprehensive, private collections of airplane photos in the world. Scale Aircraft Drawings—Volume II: World War II draws extensively on this collection.

After five years in the U.S. Army Air Forces as a Maintenance and Technical Intelligence Officer, he joined the Boeing Airplane Company as an engineer, and he retired in 1983 after 36¹/₂ years. Meanwhile, his model building had expanded to include the design and construction of pilot-carrying, "home-built" airplanes. His single-seat Fly Baby won the national EAA design contest in 1962, and he has been selling plans to amateur builders ever since.

Over the years, his many books and magazine articles have led to his worldwide recognition as an aviation historian, model builder and airplane designer.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
WORLD WAR II COLOR AND MARKINGS	5
DESIGNATIONS1	11

AIRCRAFT

Avro Lancaster12
Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress14
Boeing B-2918
Consolidated PBY-5A Catalina22
Consolidated B-24 Liberator24
Curtiss P-40 D-E-F Kittyhawk
Curtiss SB2C Helldiver
Douglas Boston/Havoc/A-2032
Douglas A-26 Invader38
Douglas C-54 Skymaster40
Fairchild PT-19, PT-23, PT-2644
Fiat CR 42 Falcon46
Focke-Wulf 190A48
Gloster Gladiator50
Grumman F4F Wildcat52
Grumman TBF Avenger58
Grumman F6F Hellcat64
Hawker Hurricane70
Kawasaki Ki 61 Tony76

Lockheed Hudson78
Martin PBM Mariner82
Martin B-26 Marauder88
Messerschmitt Me 10992
Messerschmitt Me 262 Swallow96
Mitsubishi A6M Zero102
Mitsubishi G4M Betty104
Nakajima Ki-84 Frank106
North American P-51B Mustang108
Northrop P-61 Black Widow110
Republic P-47 Thunderbolt 112
Stearman Kaydet116
Supermarine Spitfire118
Vega Ventura126
Vought SB2U Chesapeake/Vindicator132
Vought OS2U Kingfisher136
Westland Lysander138
Westland Whirlwind144

INTRODUCTION

by PETER BOWERS

This book, Volume II of the Air Age Scale Aircraft Drawings series, covers 37 representative WW II airplanes. Some are prewar service models that served at the beginning of hostilities but were soon re-

placed, while others are more modern types that, with continual upgrading, were able to serve until the end. It's interesting that very few of the models that originated after the onset of the war actually saw combat.

Some of these drawings were made during the war when data was scarce or even restricted, but they're as accurate as possible under the circumstances. In fact, artist William Wylam drew some of them so well that the U.S. Army took him to task for being too accurate in depicting designs that were still classified. As a result, he deliberately included minor discrepancies in some subsequent drawings, notably the vertical tail of the B-29.

Some of these discrepancies are mentioned in the text that accompanies each airplane; each includes a brief history and details of the plane's development and operational use. With modelers in mind, I

carefully selected the photos from my collection, and they combine the best views of the airplanes' structural detail and markings.

It should be noted that the drawings and photos in this book are, at best, rather general, and serious modelers who build



Above: Me 262 nose details. At left, an Me 262A-2a with two 250kg (550-pound) bombs under the fuselage. At right, an Me 262A-1a fighter. Note the ports for the 30mm cannon in the upper nose.

Below: One of six PBM-3Bs sent to England as "Mariner I," painted in the British Coastal Command's white and gray color scheme. The Mariners didn't meet British requirements and were returned to the U.S. Navy. Note the powered two-gun tail turret.

4

for scale competition will need additional supporting data to verify their efforts.

The most common errors found on models, illustrations and even restored military airplanes are national insignia of

incorrect proportions, and incorrect markings for the period of aircraft operation being depicted. Accurate data on this complicated subject isn't generally available to modelers, so I've devoted a section to these markings (as obtained from official markings charts).

I've also included a section on designations, which discusses the basics of the various national designating systems. It also explains why an American-built airplane like the Douglas DB-7 (factory designation) was operated as a "DB-7" only by France; while Great Britain called it either a "Boston" or a "Havoc;" the U.S. Army called it an "A-20" or a "P-70;" and the U.S. Navy used it as a "BD."

Finally, I explain why different designations were used on otherwise identical U.S. Navy airplanes (such as the SB2C-4 and the SBW-4), as well as the meaning of "B-17G-BO," "B-17G-VE" and "B-17G-DL."



WORLD WAR II COLOR AND MARKINGS

AIRPLANE COLORING

Most military airplanes were not camouflaged after the end of WW I, but, as WW II approached, "war paint" gradually came back into use: in England and Germany in 1937; in France in 1939; in the U.S. Army in 1940; and in the U.S. Navy in 1941. In general, European airplanes used a combination of several earth tones on the top and sides, and a light shade, such as sky blue, The enormously complex subject of WW II markings and insignia fills many books. The best that can be done to address the subject in this limited volume is to present an outline of the basic colors used, the proper proportions and placement of national insignia, and the time during which these markings were used.

1927 (Figure 1). Starting in February 1941, the same coloring was extended to other Army tactical models, and the insignia were rearranged (as described later).

From mid-1941 through



(Figure 1) The early Curtiss P-40 (shown) and Douglas A-20A were the only camouflaged U.S. Army airplanes delivered with the distinctive Army rudder stripes and star insignia on both wing tips. Rudder stripes were eliminated from camouflaged airplanes in February 1942, and the star configuration changed to one on the upper left wing, one on the lower right wing and one on each side of the rear fuselage.

below. These changed extensively during the war according to theater of operation, season, mission, etc. U.S. ARMY-In 1940, the U.S. Army adopted olive-drab coloring for the top and sides and light gray for the undersurfaces of the first Curtiss P-40s and Douglas A-20As. These planes carried the then-standard insignia arrangement of stars on both wings (top and bottom), and the distinctive rudder stripes used only by the Army since

1943, many U.S. Army airplanes appeared in British camouflage because they had been appropriated by the Army through British contracts with U.S. manufacturers. Other basic colors for Army airplanes were matte black for night fighters (later changed to glossy black) and a light shade (almost pink) for planes flying in North African desert operations. Early in 1944, it was decided that camouflage wasn't really necessary for most combat types; it

was costly to apply and maintain, and it decreased airplane performance. Camouflage was eliminated from most subsequent production, though some metal-finished B-24s and B-29s were painted glossy black underneath when they were used for night bombing.

Until early 1942, primary trainers (like the Stearman/ Boeing Kaydet) and basic trainers were delivered in prewar yellow and blue with rudder stripes. They were subsequently delivered in overall silver dope or natural metal. Some yellow and blue planes were repainted silver, but others survived the war in their original prewar colors.

U.S. NAVY-Prewar U.S. Navy airplanes were silver, with chrome yellow on the uppermost wing surface. In February 1941, overall lightgray camouflage was adopted for fleet-type airplanes, and the stars were placed as on the camouflaged Army planes. Late in 1941, tactical models operating over water adopted a dull blue-gray for the top and sides and retained the gray undersides. Planes with folding wings, on which the underside of the wing was visible from above when

folded, had the topside coloring applied to the undersurface of the folded wing. A few Navy fleet airplanes retained the overall grav into early 1942.

Early in 1943, the camouflage was changed to dark sea-blue on top surfaces, graduating through lighter shades to glossy white undersurfaces.

Early in 1944, glossy seablue was adopted as camouflage for carrier-based fighters. Soon afterward, this coloring was extended to all other fleet models. There were other special camouflage schemes for specific missions, such as the dull-gray top surfaces on otherwise all-white planes, which were used on seasearch and anti-submarine missions, and overall matte black on planes used for night missions, etc.

NATIONAL MARKINGS

The following drawings and photos are presented to give model builders the correct proportions and locations of the national markings used by the warring powers. Although there have been many variations and exceptions, these can be regarded as "standard."

WORLD WAR II COLOR AND MARKINGS

UNITED STATES—From 1919 through 1942, the U.S. Army and Navy (which included the Marine Corps) used two separate national markings for their aircraft: the common star-in-circle markings on the



(Figure 2) An American Star-in-Circle insignia as used from May 1917 through January 1918, and September 1919 through May 15, 1942.

wings (and later, on the fuselages), and the red, white and blue stripes on the rudders. Each marking will be described separately. **Stars**—Until May 15, 1942, the star marking had three colors: a red center disc inside a white, five-pointed star against a blue circle (Figure 2). (The very dark shade called "Insignia Blue" came into use



(Figure 2A) This enlarged detail of Figure 2 shows that the red center circle is tangent to projections of the star arms across the center of the star.



(Figure 3)The red center was removed from the U.S. insignia on May 15, 1942. The insignia remained in this form through June 1943.

in the late 1920s and early '30s, and replaced the brighter "True Blue" shade). As shown in Figure 2A, the red center was tangent to projections of the star arms across the center of the star. The most common error made when this marking is applied to models occurs when the center is made too large, and sometimes actually touches the blue circle.

In February 1941, the star was removed from the upper right and lower left wings of camouflaged Army and Navy planes, and one was added to each side of the rear fuselage (or to the noses of flying boats). The purpose of this arrangement was psychological. Tests showed that a gunner aiming at an airplane with two bright insignia on it would tend to sight between the bright spots, or right on the cockpit, when the markings were on the wing tips. By having one insignia on a wing tip and the other on the fuselage, the gunner—it was hoped would center his aim on the empty space between the wing tip and the fuselage.

To avoid possible confusion



(Figure 4) A directive of June 28, 1943 added white rectangles to the U.S. insignia and surrounded the entire marking with a red border in the proportions shown(A). On September 4, 1943, it was directed that the red border be changed to blue(B).

with the red disc of the Japanese insignia, the red disc was removed from the American star insignia on May 15, 1942 (Figure 3). At the end of June 1943, the insignia was made more visible when white rectangles were added to each side of it, and the whole marking was surrounded by a red border (in the proportions of Figure 4). In the heat of combat, however, a glimpse of red could be mistaken for the Japanese marking, so the red border was changed to blue in September 1943. The blue border is still in use today.

This use of a blue border around a blue circle has always been a major source of confusion. Blue-around-blue made sense only for the period when an existing red border was painted over with blue. I am not alone in believing that the blue border should have been retained only around the white rectangles, and not around the blue circle. Many modelers, artists and even some airplane manufacturers believe that the marking should be made that way, and they paint their aircraft accordingly.

The other major application error is made when the rectangles are the wrong proportion and misaligned; the tops of the rectangles should line up with the sides of the upper star points (Figure 4).

After Pearl Harbor, the Navy put the stars back on both wings of all its airplanes to



(Figure 5) Gray-painted Douglas SBD-3 Dauntless dive bombers onboard a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier early in 1942. Note the return of stars to both wings, and the variation in sizes used—even on the same airplane.



(Figure 6) Vertical rudder stripes as used by the U.S. Army and Navy from May 1917 through January 1918, and from September 1919 through 1926. Navy and Marine Corps made decreasing use of this arrangement up to WW II.

increase visibility for positive identification. It also increased the stars' size (previously limited to 60 inches for wing stars and not allowed to overlap the ailerons) to cover the full chord of the wing and the full depth of the fuselage. This size increase was only for camouflaged aircraft to be used in combat areas (Figure 5); others retained standardsize markings. Early in 1943. both services standardized the arrangement: one star was placed on the upper left wing tip, one was put on the lower right, and one was positioned on each side of the fuselage. Stripes—From late 1919



(Figure 7) The U.S. Army adopted this new rudder stripe arrangement in November 1926. It was eliminated from camouflaged airplanes in February 1941, and from all others on May 15, 1942.



(Figure 8) On January 5, 1942, the U.S. Navy adopted this red-and-white variation of the Army rudder stripes for use on camouflaged airplanes, but used it only until May 15, 1942.

through 1926, the Army and Navy used the same rudder markings: three vertical stripes of equal width with red at the trailing edge, then white and blue forward (Figure 6). This duplicated the French and British markings.

After 1926, the Army deleted the vertical red and white stripes and replaced them with 13 alternating red and white stripes, as used on the American flag (Figure 7). This marking was eliminated from camouflaged Army planes in February 1941, and from all other Army planes on May 15, 1942.

The most common error in present-day model and real airplane restorations occurs when the vertical blue stripe is made the same width as the horizontal stripes. Whatever the shape of the rudder, the width of the vertical blue stripe should be one-third the maximum chord of the rudder. After 1926, the Navy used rudder stripes less often, and they were eliminated by 1941. In January 1942, the Navy adopted a variation of the Army rudder stripes for camouflaged airplanes by deleting the vertical blue stripe and



(Figure 9) A British Type A roundel, as used from WW I through June 1942. Note that the diameter of the roundel is divided into equal fifths by the three circles.

running the horizontal stripes full-chord of the rudder (Figure 8). This marking was eliminated on May 15, 1942, along with the red center of the star insignia.

GREAT BRITAIN—Beginning early in WW I, British Empire forces used threecolor circle insignia called "roundels," and three vertical rudder stripes with the blue forward. To avoid duplication of the similar French rudder stripes, the order was reversed in 1931. By 1937, however, when camouflage was adopted, rudder stripes were uncommon.

Roundels—The British roundels had standard proportions and were used in three basic arrangements during WW II. Figure 9 shows the standard proportions of the Type A roundel as it was used from 1916 through June 1942. Note that the diameter of the insignia is divided into fifths. With the adoption of camouflage in 1937, the roundel was modified to Type A.1 (Figure 10) by the addition of a vellow ring around the blue, which divided the basic circle into sevenths. At first, type A.1 was used against all dark surfaces, but after 1940, it was used only on the fuselage sides of camouflaged planes. Type A was then used only on the undersides of wings, though it was used briefly on camouflaged sides in late 1939 and early 1940 in place of type A.1.

The Type B roundel originated in WW I as a reducedvisibility marking for night operations, and it remained in use on both day and night operations through WW II. Figure 11 shows that the red center was two-fifths (or 40 percent) the diameter of the overall marking. Type B was

WORLD WAR II COLOR AND MARKINGS



(Figure 10) The addition of a yellow outer ring to the Type A British roundel divided the diameter of the new Type A. marking into equal sevenths. It was used on camouflaged surfaces from 1937 through June 1942.

used mainly on upper wing surfaces through WW II, but it appeared on the fuselages and underwings of some specialpurpose aircraft, such as bluepainted reconnaissance planes.

Type C and C.1 roundels were adopted in July 1942 as direct replacements for Types A and A.1. They were applied in only three sizes—small, medium and large—and were laid out to given dimensions rather than to fractions of the overall diameter. Figure 12



(Figure 14) The revised British Fin Flash of July 1942 was 24 inches high and used three widths (shown), all with a 2-inch-wide white center stripe. gives the dimensions in inches for all three sizes in ascending order. Note that the yellow ring is used only on Type C.1. Some Type C roundels began to appear on upper wing surfaces just before the war ended.

Fin Flashes-During the Battle of France (May 1940). the Roval Air Force briefly used rudder stripes again. They were quickly abandoned, however, for what was called a "Fin Flash"; a smaller set of equal-width red, white and blue vertical stripes, with red forward, painted on the vertical fin. From late 1940 through June 1942, the flash was standardized at 24 inches wide and 27 inches high (Figure 13). After July 1942, the width of the white stripe was reduced to 2 inches. The standard flash then had a height of 24 inches, and it used red and blue stripes in three widths (Figure 14).

FRANCE—France origi-



(Figure 11) This British Type B roundel was used for night operations, beginning in WW I, and was used on the upper wing surfaces of most other aircraft from 1940 until the end of WW II.



(Figure 12) British Type C and C.1 roundels were adopted in July 1942, and were laid out in the three sizes shown, rather than being divided into percentages of the overall diameter. They were used as direct replacements for Types A and A.1 roundels.

nated the use of national airplane insignia before WW I, and it called its tricolor circles "cocardes." These were used only on wings until they were added to fuselages at the onset of WW II. Mainly, the proportions were as in Figure 15, with the radius divided into thirds. Rudder stripes, with the blue forward, were used from WW I through WW II. France was one of the few nations to retain rudder stripes after most of the others had moved tail markings to the fin. The French marking situation was complicated after June 1940,



(Figure 13) The British Fin Flash was standardized late in 1940, and remained this size through June 1942. On airplanes with small fins (such as the Supermarine Spitfire), it was sometimes necessary to cut an upper corner of the flash.



because "Vichy France" was subservient to Hitler, but "Free French" forces (who had escaped) joined the Allies, and both used the same basic national markings.

GERMANY—Germany was prohibited from having an air

force by the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WW I. A secret Luftwaffe, however, was created in the early 1930s with airplanes that flew in civil markings. Proper military markings appeared when the new Luftwaffe was revealed to the world in 1935. **Crosses**—White-bordered black crosses in various proportions were used from 1935 through 1939. These crosses were positioned midway between the trailing edge of the wing and the leading edge of the horizontal tail, and very close to the wing tips. After the Polish campaign that started the war, the proportions were standardized.

In the interest of reduced visibility, narrow-bordered crosses (Figure 16) were now used only on upper wing surfaces, and they were positioned 2 meters (6 feet, 6 inches) in from the wing tips.

Wide-bordered crosses (Figure 17) were used on the fuselage and on the underside of the wing, usually midway between the wing tip and the fuselage on single-engine types, and midway between the wing tip and the outer engine nacelle on multi-engine types.

Late in the war, the black part of the cross was sometimes omitted, leaving only a white border against the airplane's basic color. In other cases, the white outline was replaced by black (Figure 18).

Swastika—From 1935 through 1938, the German tail marking for all airplanes was a wide red band that covered the full chord of the fin and rudder. A white circle containing a black swastika standing on its corner was centered on the red band (Figure 19).

Before the war started, the red band and white circle were deleted from German Military



(Figure 16) The standard proportions of the narrow-bordered German cross, as used on upper wing surfaces from 1940 until the end of the war.



(Figure 17) Standard proportions of the wide-bordered German cross, as used on fuselage sides and wing under-surfaces from 1940 until the end of the war.

airplanes only. Some military prototypes were subsequently tested with civil markings, but camouflaged planes retained the band and circle.

The swastika was laid out to very rigid specifications

WORLD WAR II COLOR AND MARKINGS



(Figure 18) A German Focke-Wulf Fw.190A-3 carrying the black outlines of fuselage and wing crosses late in the war. Note the absence of a white border around the swastika on the fin.

(Figure 20), and on dark backgrounds, it had a narrow white border. For a short time after the red band had been removed, the swastika remained centered between the fin and the rudder. It was soon moved to the fin on most planes, but it was placed on the larger rudders of some aircraft with small fins.

It should be noted that very few WW II German aircraft models appear with swastikas today. Since the war's end, it has been against the law to display the swastika in Germany, and photos of wartime planes that appear in post-war issues of German magazines sometimes have the swastikas blanked out. Various anti-Nazi groups continue working to



(Figure 20) The standard proportions of this white-bordered swastika were applied to the vertical fin of German airplanes from 1940 until the end of the war. The white border was eliminated on some light-colored airplanes. keep swastikas off all toys and representations of Nazi-era equipment, even in the United States.

JAPAN-Since WW I. Japan has used the "Rising Sun," or "Hinomaru," (the red disc of the Japanese flag), as its national aircraft marking. The Allies, particularly the Americans, derisively called it the "Meatball." When the Hinomaru was used against dark surfaces, it was usually outlined with a white border that was approximately 2 inches wide (Figure 21). The marking was standard for both the Japanese Army and its Navy. (The Hinomaru Red was much lighter and brighter than the dark American Insignia Red.)

At the war's end, a few Japanese military airplanes were allowed to fly during and beyond the surrender negotiations. These planes were painted white and were marked with dark green crosses (Figure 22). In a few cases, airplanes still in camouflage carried their new crosses on white squares that had been painted over the Hinomarus.

INVASION STRIPES

For the invasion of France in June 1944, participating U.S. and British airplanes carried hastily applied "Invasion



(Figure 19) Panchromatic film and a filter lighten and emphasize the red band used on the vertical fins of German military airplanes from 1935 into 1938. The black swastika was moved to the fin after the red band and white circle were deleted. Civil-registered German airplanes retained the red band and white circle throughout the war.

Stripes" for quick, positive identification. These consisted of three white and two black equal-width stripes that completely encircled the rear fuselage and were applied fullchord to both upper and lower wing surfaces (Figure 23).



(Figure 21) The Japanese red circle marking, officially called "Hinomaru," was usually outlined with a white border, approximately 2 inches wide, when it was used on dark surfaces. Widths varied from 18 inches (on the P-51) to 20 inches (B-26 and P-47), and 24 inches (A-20). Four-engine bombers didn't use the stripes unless they had been diverted to glider-towing.

After the invasion of Normandy, the stripes were removed from the upper half of the fuselage and from the top of the wing. The stripes were retained on the lower surfaces for subsequent largescale, airborne invasions, with some used on planes involved in the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945.

Invasion stripes are popular today for restored, camouflaged WW II airplanes, and they add variety to a collection of similarly camouflaged U.S. or British scale models.



Figure 22) A disarmed Japanese Mitsubishi G4M-1 Betty bomber painted white, with green crosses replacing the Hinomaru marking. It was used to transport Japanese surrender emissaries to Allied headquarters in August 1945.



Figure 23) An olivedrab Douglas A-20G with crudely applied black-and-white Invasion Stripes flies over the Allied Invasion Fleet on D-day, June 6, 1944.

he nations involved in WW II identified their military airplanes differently. France, Germany and Italy simply used the manufacturer's model designations (e.g., Messerschmitt 109, Fiat CR 42, etc.) France added the mission and seating to the designation painted on the rudder, as in "Douglas DB-7-B3." The "B3" indicated that it was a three-place bomber. A pursuit. like the Curtiss 75, was "75-C1," ("C1" indicated a one-place Chasse, or pursuit, type). The more involved British, U.S. and Japanese systems are described separately here.

GREAT BRITAIN— Great Britain used given names followed by progressive "Mark Num-

bers," such as the Westland Lysander Mk I, II, III, etc. Minor variants that didn't qualify for a new Mark number were given letters, such as "Lysander Mk IIIA." In some cases, the added letter identified a special feature, as with the Hawker Hurricane Mk IIC with cannon armament. Similar airplanes used for vastly different missions were sometimes given different names, such as the Douglas DB-7. which was called a "Boston" when it was used as a bomber, but a "Havoc" when it was used as a night fighter.

The practice of using different names or Mark Numbers for different missions was abandoned mid-war, in favor of adding prefix letters to identify the mission, such as "Spitfire F Mk IX" for a fighter, and "P.R. Mk XI" for photoreconnaissance. The letters "N.F." identified night fighters, and "T.T." identified target tugs.

UNITED STATES—The U.S. Army and Navy used two separate systems to identify the type, model, series and manufacturer of each airplane. The systems are too extensive to list here in their entirety, so only the basics will be presented.

U.S. Army—The Army used a Type-Model-Series system that was formalized in 1924 and is still used today by the U.S. Air Force. The type letter identified the basic mission of the airplane (e.g., "B" for bomber). The model number identified the number of the particular type contracted for, but not necessarily procured by, the Army, such as "B-17." The series letter identified the stage of model development, such as "B-17A." Starting in 1942, suffix letters were added to the Army designation to identify the actual builder of the airplane.

In early 1942, minor changes were often made that didn't

in "PBY-5" for Consolidated's first Patrol Bomber. Specialized configurations were identified by suffix letters, as in "PBY-5A" for an amphibious version and "SB2C-4E" for a Scout bomber modified for electronics missions.

U.S. Popular Names—In October 1941, the U.S. Government adopted "popular" names for its military aircraft, such as "Mariner" for the Martin PBM and "Wildcat" for the Grumman F4F. Some names were already in use and were easy to adapt— Boeing had already been calling its B-17 the Flying Fortressing as "K1 61 Hein." The Japanese Navy system was based on the U.S. Navy system that identified the airplane by type and number of models procured from a particular manufacturer, such as "Mitsubishi A6M-2 Type 0" (1940) fighter Raiden.

The Allies stopped trying to use the various Japanese systems and gave all Japanese airplanes code names, such as "Tony" for the Ki 61 and "Zeke" for the A6M-2.

MULTIPLE MANUFACTUR-ERS—In all of the warring nations, major combat planes were built in factories other than



justify a new series letter. Instead, the airplanes were identified with a block number, e.g., -1, -5, -10, and so on. The intervening numbers were reserved for changes made at modification centers (e.g., changes to a Republic P-47D-25 made it a P-47D-28).

U.S. Navy-The Navy tied in the airplane manufacturer with the airplane type and model designation, as with the "Grumman F4F-4." The first letter identified the type (e.g., "F" for fighter). The following number identified the number of different fighter designs ordered from that manufacturer, and the second letter identified the particular manufacturer. In this case the "F" identified "Grumman" because the logical letter "G" was in use by another manufacturer when Grumman became a Navy customer. The number "1" wasn't used for a manufacturer's first Navy model. Grumman's first Navy fighter was the FF-1, followed by the F2F-1, F3F-1, F3F-2, etc. The dash number that followed the last letter identified not the model number, but the sequential configuration of that model.

Multi-purpose Navy planes appeared in 1934 and were identified by two type letters, as and other names were picked up from previous British use of American designs, such as "Catalina" for the PBY.

The purpose of catchall names was to conceal the actual development stage of a combat plane when it was discussed in the public press. A Flying Fortress was simply a B-17, not specifically a B17E, F, or G. These names were almost totally ignored by those associated with the airplanes (to whom accurate designations were important), and they didn't "take" well with the public, despite the efforts of the press.

JAPAN—The Japanese Army and Navy used a type identification system based on the named type and a one- or twodigit number identifying the Japanese Dynastic Year in which the airplane entered production, such as "Bomber Type 1" for the Mitsubishi G4M-1. The figure "1" in this case is the last digit of the year 2601 (equivalent to our calendar year 1941). The Japanese also gave names to many, but not all, of their military aircraft.

The Japanese Army also used a sequential "Kitai" numbering system that started in 1932, with the number for the Kawasaki Type 3 fighter appearthose of the original designers. In England and Germany, Spitfires and Me 109s were built by several manufacturers, with no indication in their designations as to who actually built them. Designations were different in the U.S.

U.S. Army—A B-17G was still a B-17G, no matter who built it, but the factories involved were included in the designation early in 1942. Boeing's Seattle plant built the B-17G-BO, Vega built the B-17G-VE and Douglas' Long Beach plant built the B-17G-DL. Different factories of the same manufacturer also got distinguishing letter designations, such as "BW" for Boeing's Wichita, KS, plant, and "BN" for its plant in Renton, WA.

U.S. Navy—When an established design, such as the Curtiss SB2C-4, was built by another firm, that firm used the same type designation but a different manufacturer's letter. The SB2C-4, built in Canada by Fairchild, became the SBF-4 because Canadian Fairchild had never built an SB type for the Navy. The same model built by Canadian Car & Foundry became the SBW-4 for the same reason.

AVRO LANCASTER



An Avro Lancaster I carrying standard British night-bomber camouflage. Note how far up the side of the fuselage the matte-black underside paint extends. Type B roundels are on top of the wing; Type C.1 roundels are on the fuselage. The fin flash is 24x36 inches.

THE Avro Lancaster was the most famous and widely used four-engine British bomber of WW II. Oddly, however, it didn't originate as a four-engine design. In 1937, the British Air Ministry issued a requirement for a heavy bomber to be powered with two new and still experimental 1,760hp Rolls-Royce Vulture engines.

A.V. Roe and Co., Ltd., of Newton Heath, Manchester, won the order with its Model 679-named "Manchester" by the Royal Air Force. The prototype was first flown in July 1939. The program was seriously delayed by a German air raid, and it was then ended by the shortcomings of the stilltroublesome Vulture engine (priorities for the Merlin engine prevented Rolls-Royce from perfecting the Vulture). Only 200 Manchesters were built, some of which saw action over Germany (February 1941 to June 1942).

To save the Manchester program, Avro developed a four-engine modification of the basic airframe. It had a wider center section and longer wing panels for use

with the 1,145hp Rolls-Royce Merlin engine (as used in the Hawker Hurricane and Supermarine Spitfire fighter). These changes increased the wingspan from 90 feet, 1 inch to 102 feet for the same 50,000-pound gross weight. The converted airframe, originally named "Manchester III," first flew on January 9, 1941. The Air Ministry was pleased with its performance and immediately ordered the revised design into production designated as the "Avro Model 683 Lancaster."

Demand was more than Avro could handle, so production of an eventual 7.374 Lancasters was distributed among two Avro plants and one Canadian and four other British manufacturers. The first production Lancaster I, powered by 1,260hp Merlin XX engines, flew on October 31, 1941. The short time it took to move the Lancaster from prototype to production can be attributed to its being essentially a modified Manchester, not a completely new design.

Both offensively and defensively, the Lancaster I was a formidable machine, with a gross weight of 65,000 pounds—greater than that of the American Boeing B-17. It could usually carry 7,000 pounds of bombs and was defended by four powered machine-gun turrets with 10 to 12.303-caliber guns. Lancasters first went into action in March 1942 and were the backbone of the British heavy bomber fleet for the rest of the war.

As a precaution against a shortage of Merlin engines, a Lancaster II using the 1,650hp Bristol Hercules VI air-cooled radial engine was developed. A large production order was placed with one of the subcontractors, but the anticipated Merlin shortage didn't materialize, so the Lancaster II order was progressively reduced until only 300 were delivered. Lancasters that had Merlin engines built in the U.S. by Packard were designated "Lancaster III" (2,990 produced). The 430 built in Canada with Packard Merlins were identified as "Lancaster X.'

Intermediate marks identified various improved versions: Marks IV and V were special long-range versions; Mark VI had improved 1,750hp Merlins; and Mark VII had 1,620hp Merlins but a gross weight of 68,000 pounds. Marks VIII and IX weren't used.

The Lancasters were used primarily as night bombers in the Allied program that bombed Germany "around the clock"-the Americans attacking by day, the British by night. Specially modified Lancasters were used on some spectacular missions, such as the breaching of the Möhne and Eder dams in May 1943 and the sinking of the battleship Tirpitz, hidden in a Norwegian fjord, with a single 12,000-pound bomb in November 1944. Special Lancasters modified to carry 22,000-pound Grand Slam bombs had gross weights of 72,000 pounds.

Lancasters remained in service with the Royal Air Force until February 1954 and with the Royal Canadian Air Force until April 1964. Only two flyable Lancasters remain today.

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Wingspan	102 ft.
High Speed	
Length	69 ft., 4 in.
Cruising Speed	200mph
Wing Area	1,279 sq. ft.
Initial Climb	250 ft./min.
Empty Weight	36,457 lbs.
Ceiling	19,000 ft.
Gross Weight	68,000 lbs.
Range	2,530 miles



WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

BOEING B-17 FLYING FORTRESS



This B-17G-15-BO was delivered without the additional nose guns that were added to early B-17Gs at modification centers. Note that the exhausts for inboard engines are on the outer sides of nacelles; exhausts on the outboard engines are on the bottoms of nacelles. Also note the camouflage pattern on engine cowlings.

HE Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress was one of the few U.S. warplanes to have an accepted name as well as a standard military designation *before* being named by the British or included on the U.S. government's list of so-called "popular" planes late in 1941.

The B-17, a daring design at the time, was developed in response to a U.S. Army flyoff competition for multi-engine bombers announced in 1934. "Multi-engine" at that time was generally understood to mean "twin engine." Boeing realized that all the contestants, using the available engines and state-of-theart airframes, would perform similarly, so it decided to take a gamble: use four engines to improve the performance of its entry while carrying the same bomb load as the competition. Previously, additional engines had been used to get larger airplanes with heavier loads into the air, rather than to improve the performance of smaller airplanes.

Built as the companyowned Model 299, the prototype of the 12,726 B-17s that were eventually built rolled out of the factory in July 1935. The name "Flying Fortress" (later copyrighted by Boeing) was bestowed on it by a Seattle newspaper reporter who was impressed by the five defensive machine-gun turrets of the new bomber. The aircraft's name was a natural. owing to its armament and the fact that it was intended to defend the U.S. coastline from invading surface fleets accompanied by carrier-based fighters.

Model 299 ran away with the contest. Performance was sensational—a top speed of 236mph at a gross weight of 38,059 pounds; a cruising speed of 140mph; and a range of 3,101 miles. On October 30, an army pilot took off with the control locks inadvertently engaged. The crash eliminated the Boeing from the competition, but the Army was sufficiently impressed with it to order 13 nearly identical planes for service testing as the YB-17. At the Army's request, the engines were changed from 750hp Pratt & Whitney R-1690 Hornets to 850hp Wright R-1820 Cyclones. Shortly before the first flight on December 2, 1936, the YB-17 designation was changed to Y1B-17.

The strength of an early Y1B-17 was proven in a violent storm, so the Army directed that a fourteenth airframe, ordered for a static test, be completed as the single Y1B-17A flight article. Boeing used this to develop turbosupercharger installations used on all subsequent B-17s for improved altitude capability.

Orders for 39 production B-17Bs trickled in over nearly three years, owing mostly to cost problems— Boeing's cost of building the planes in small numbers and the Army's reluctance to pay the price. Many officials thought that the B-17 was too much airplane for pilots to handle, and they urged that the money instead be spent on

smaller bombers. Thirty-eight B-17Cs and 42 B-17Ds were delivered through April 1941, thanks to the increasing urgency of the war situation. They resembled the Y1B-17A, except for minor improvements and gradual upgrading of the armament installations, which had been designed according to outof-date Army specifications. Armor was added, and fuel tanks were changed to the latest self-sealing type. The B-17D had 1,200hp R-1820-51 engines and a bomb load of 4,000 pounds at a gross weight of 47,242 pounds. The combat inadeguacies of

the B-17 were revealed on 20

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Powerplant	. Wright R-1820-97
1	,200hp at 25,000 ft.
Wingspan	103 ft., 9 in.
Length	
Wing Area	1,420 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	
Gross Weight	
Top Speed 2	87mph at 25,000 ft.
Cruising Speed	
Service Ceiling	
Range	2,000 miles with
	6,000-lb. bombs
Armament	

B-17Cs, which the U.S. Army transferred to the British as "Fortress I." Their first combat use was a raid on Wilhelmshaven, Germany, on July 8, 1941. The systems and armament of the B-17 had not been designed or modified for high-altitude operations under European combat conditions, so the Fortresses were quickly withdrawn.

In the Pacific, the few surviving B-17Cs and Ds did much better. Their perfor-



A B-17G-15-BO with representative 8th Air Force markings. Triangle A identifies the 91st Bomb Group, LG identifies the 322nd Bomb Squadron and R identifies the individual airplane in the group. Note the name "Chow Hound," and cartoon on the nose and the row of painted bombs indicating nine bombing missions.

mance and versatility so impressed the Japanese that they were described as "fourengine fighters used for all purposes."

The lessons of the European war came together in the first of 512 B-17Es, which left the factory in September 1941. The aircraft had a new rear fuselage structure that housed a tail "stinger" with



two .50-caliber guns and top and bottom powered turrets, each with two .50s, and a single .50 in the waist stations and radio room (a total of nine .50s), plus the single .30 in the nose. The tail stinger was a big surprise to the Japanese, making them wary to approach all B-17s from the rear. Crews of older B-17s took advantage of this by putting dummy guns in their tail cones.

The most distinctive external feature of the B-17E was the larger vertical tail with a long dorsal fin. American B-17 operations over Europe began with a raid of 12 B-17Es over Rouen, France, on August 17, 1942, but it wasn't an all-American operation; the escorting fighters were British Spitfires.

The B-17F was outwardly similar to the E except for a slightly longer molded Plexiglas nose cone. Its bomb load increased to 8,000 pounds by using external bomb racks under the wings.

With wartime demand exceeding Boeing's capability, Douglas and Vega (subsidiaries of Lockheed) were called on to build additional B-17Fs. The 2,300 built by Boeing were B-17F-BO; the 500 by Vega were -VE; and the 605 by Douglas were -DL. The B-17Fs were the first to use the block

The first 112 B-17Es had small, remotely sighted belly turrets. The 113th B-17E and all later models used the manned Sperry Ball turret (shown).

number system, but there was no direct correlation between, say, a B-17F-5 built by Boeing, Vega, or Douglas.

Combat with B-17Es and early B-17Fs revealed the plane's vulnerability to fighter attack from straight ahead, so various additional nose-gun arrangements were tried on B-17Fs in combat. The best solution was to replace the .30caliber nose gun with one or two .50s in the nose cone and to add a single .50 in a bulged blister on each side of the nose. (This permitted almost straight-ahead fire.) Boeing developed a two-gun "chin" turret that was installed on the very last B-17F-VEs and -DLs and was to have been on the B-17F-135-BO. Boeing cancelled the F-135 and combined the new turret with other changes to produce the B-17G-1.

The B-17G looked identical to the late B-17Fs with chin



turrets. Boeing built 4,035; Vega, 2,250; and Douglas, 2,395. The B-17G was the last production B-17. Designations as high as B-17P were postwar modifications.

Britain obtained additional Fortresses under Lend-Lease. The 19 Fortress IIs were B-17Fs. The 45 Fortress IIAs were B-17Es that carried later designations because existing airplanes were obtained while the Fortress IIs were being built. The 85 Fortress IIIs were B-17Gs; the first 30 built by Boeing and the remainder by



A top-powered gun turret and forward navigator's astrodome were added to the B-17E and retained through subsequent models.

Vega.

The American bombing career of the B-17 ended on V-E Day, but the B-17s served the Army and, later, the U.S. Air Force (created September 18, 1947) in many utility roles until 1960. Its final role was as a live target for anti-aircraft missiles that were built, ironically, by Boeing.

Odd B-17F variants were

Tail-gunner's station from the B-17E midway through B-17G production. Late Gs had a revised design that was developed at United Air Lines' modification center, site of earlier modifications.

the B-40, the XB-40 modified by Vega and 20 service-test YB-40s converted by Douglas. They had two top turrets, twin, powered waist guns and extra armor, and they carried double the usual ammunition. They were intended as escorts for other B-17s before the longrange fighters were introduced. Their major shortcoming was that owing to the weight of their extra guns and armor, they couldn't keep up with the fast, light empty bombers on the run home.

At the end of the war, the U.S. Navy obtained 31 late B-17Gs for use as unarmed, radar-equipped PB-1Ws (Patrol, Boeing, Anti-Submarine Warfare). The U.S. Coast Guard also acquired 17 B-17Gs (designated "PB-1G"—"G" for Coast Guard) and used them for air-sea rescue work (sometimes with lifeboats under their bellies) and for routine patrol and mapping work. The last PB-1G mission was in October 1957.





W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

BOEING B-29



A Boeing B-29A-5-BN in flight with both sets of bomb-bay doors open. Note the four powered, remote-control gun turrets above and below the fuselage, and the 20mm cannon supplementing two .50-caliber machine guns in the tail turret.

W HEN it entered service in June 1944, the Boeing B-29 was the largest, heaviest and most complex production airplane of its time-a masterpiece that pushed the state of the art to its limits. It had an 11-man crew, five powered gun turrets (each with two .50-caliber guns), a 20mm cannon in the tail turret, a pressurized fuselage and two bomb bays with a capacity of up to 20,000 pounds of bombs. Four 2,200hp Wright R-3350 engines, each fitted with two turbo-superchargers. plus slick aerodynamics, gave it the ability to bomb from over 30,000 feet and attain a top speed of 365mph at

25,000 feet and a range of 4,100 miles.

Development of the B-29 began in May 1939, after the U.S. had assessed its future airplane needs. It needed a bomber with a speed of 400mph, a range of 5,333 miles and the ability to deliver a 1-ton bomb load at the halfway point. The U.S. aircraft industry received the specification for such a bomber in February 1940, and Boeing responded with Model 341. The Army, however, kept changing its requirements for equipment, armor and armament, and self-sealing fuel cells, so Boeing had to develop a new Model 354 to



The Eddie Allen, named for the famous war correspondent, was paid for by Boeing-Wichita employees. Here it displays four camels on its nose, indicating four round-trip supply trips over the "Hump." This plane was so badly damaged over Tokyo in May 1945 that it had to be scrapped.

keep up. In June 1940, Boeing and Lockheed received Army contracts to build wooden mock-ups for evaluation. Lockheed dropped out, but Boeing was awarded a contract for two XB-29 prototypes in August, and Consolidated was to build a

competing XB-32. Both received orders for a single additional XB in December.

The B-29 had an unprecedented procurement and development history. Army officials doubted Boeing's engineering and wind-tunnel test figures and insisted on a larger wing to reduce the then-fantastic wing loading of 69 pounds per square foot (much higher

than that of contemporary fighters). Boeing argued that this would reduce speed and range, and that the B-29's huge Fowler flaps would keep landing speeds within reasonable limits. The Army was finally convinced and ordered 1,500 B-29s before the prototype flew.

With Boeing's Seattle factory choked with B-17s, the Army built a new factory for B-29 production alongside Boeing's existing plant in Wichita, KS, where the Kaydet trainers were being built. In February 1942, the Army started new plants for two other manufacturers-Bell Aircraft at Marietta, GA, and Glenn L. Martin Co. at Omaha, NE. The U.S. Navy had built a new factory at Renton, WA, near Seattle, for Boeing to build PBB-1 flying boats, but it cancelled the boats and turned the plant over to the Army for B-29 production.

Built in Seattle, the first of

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Powerplant	Wright R-3350-23
	2200hp at 25,000 ft.
Wingspan	141 ft., 3 in.
Length	
Wing Area	1,736 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	
Gross Weight	124,000 lbs.
Top Speed	358mph at 25,000 ft.
Cruising Speed	
Service Ceiling	
Range	3,250 miles (B-29A,
	4,100 miles)

the three XB-29s flew on September 21, 1942. The test program was seriously delayed by chronic troubles with the R-3350 engines, which had never been used in a production airplane. Fourteen service-

test YB-17s were built in Wichita, KS, but they, too (as well as early production models), were plagued with engine problems and difficulties with all the new equipment (from remotely sighted and controlled gun turrets to cabin pressurization), electrical trouble and radar installations.

Airplane deliveries were hampered by delays of material and equipment from the greatest network of sub-contractors and suppliers ever set up for an airplane production program. To prevent delays on the production lines, the planes were rushed through incomplete and sent to modification centers for final installations and necessary changes, particularly to the still-troublesome R-3350 engines.

Getting the first B-29s into combat was also an unprecedented operation. Japan was beyond the range of even the B-29 from U.S.-held bases in the Pacific, so several airfields were built by Chinese coolie labor in the vicinity of Chengtu, China, 1600 miles from the southern tip of Japan. The B-29s that used them were based in India but used the Chinese fields as points of departure for Japan. With no roads open for supply, all supplies (fuel, bombs, ammunition, spare engines, food, etc.) had to be air-lifted from India. 1,500 miles away, over the infamous "Hump" of the Himalaya Mountains. Each B-29 had to make several round trips to support one raid on Japan. Some B-29s were stripped of all military equipment and fitted with bomb-bay tanks, and they could ferry up to 4,000 gallons of fuel. These were facetiously called C-29s.

The first Asiatic B-29 raid was a 2,000-mile round trip from India to Bangkok, Thailand, on June 5, 1944. This was reported by Radio

Tokyo as having been flown by B-24s. The first raid against Japan was over the steel works at Yawata. Sixty-eight B-29s took off from Chengtu on June 15, but, hindered by bad weather, only 47 reached and bombed their target. Despite the B-29's capacious bomb bays, each plane carried only 1 ton of bombs in a necessary trade-off between bomb load and fuel for range. Seven B-29s were lost on that first raid; none to Japanese action.

As supplies increased, attacks on Japan from China increased, but they ended late in 1944 when the Japaneseheld Marianas Islands in the Western Pacific were captured, and B-29 bases were built there. The distance from there to Japan was only slightly less, but supplies could be delivered by ship and the B-29s could fly westward from the U.S., instead of eastward via Africa and India. Bomb loads didn't increase significantly at first, because of the fuel required to reach the bombing altitude of 30,000 feet that was necessary to elude fighters and flak, and to battle the terrific head winds. The first strike against Tokyo since the Doolittle raid of April 1942, with B-25s launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet, was made of Saipan on November 24. 1944, with over 100 B-29s.

After capture, Iwo Jima,which is halfway between Saipan and Japan, served as a safe haven for damaged B-29s and for those low on fuel, and it also provided a base for P-51 fighters that could now accompany the B-29s to Japan. With Japanese fighter opposition virtually eliminated, the B-29s could go in at a lower altitude and with bigger bomb loads. This was the beginning of the end. Incendiary bombs virtually wiped out whole cities until, on August 6 and 9, two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force a speedy end to the war.

During the war, some 118 B-29s were converted to longrange F-13 photo-reconnaissance planes and used to select targets in Japan and evaluate bomb damage after raids. Their photos also helped those who planned the U.S. invasion of the Philippines.

B-29 Production—Between them, the four factories turned out 3,960 B-29s, with the last one delivered from Renton in May 1946. Over 5,000 B-29s still on order were cancelled after V-J Day.

B-29—Most B-29s were designated simply "B-29." The

and fired by a new AN/APG-15B radar fire-control system. The weight saved went to additional bomb load.

B-29C—This aircraft was to have been a B-29 with improved R-3350 engines, but it was never built.

B-29D—The B-29D was a major improvement of the B-29, with 3,500hp Pratt & Whitney R-4360 engines, a 75ST aluminum structure instead of 24ST, thermal antiicing instead of rubber boots, and a taller tail. Two hundred were cancelled after V-J Day, but the Army got 60 reinstated by saying that they were 75percent-new airplanes designated "B-50." A total of 371 B-50s through TB-50H were built through March 1953.

B-29s Postwar—The B-29



Major postwar use of the B-29 after Korea was as an aerial refueling tanker fitted with Boeing's "flying boom" refueling system. Here, a KB-29P refuels a Republic F-84F.

final models differed in detail from the early models, most notably in having four-gun upper forward turrets instead of two-gun turrets. Boeing built 1,634 B-29-BWs; Bell built 668 -BAs; and Martin built 536 -MOs.

B-29A—The B-29A had a new wing center section structure that added 1 foot to its wingspan. All 1,119 B-29A-BNs were built in Renton.

B-29B—A total of 311 Bell B-29s were modified in the factory and delivered as B-29Bs, stripped of all but tail guns. This cleaned-up version was as fast as Japanese fighters and could be attacked only from the rear. Also, the tail guns were aimed

remained the standby of the Strategic Air Command in the early, post-WW II years and served in the Korean War of 1950-53, with many of its logical targets declared off limits by political considerations. Its range was increased for global operations in 1948 by converting 92 B-29s to KB-29M hose tankers and another 74, supplemented by B-50As, to hose receiver B-29MRs. Later, 116 were converted to KB-29P boom tankers.

After Korea, a few B-29s continued to serve the Air Force in utility and training roles until 1960. One flyable B-29 survives today, and several are on view in museums.





CONSOLIDATED PBY-5A CATALIN



A Consolidated PBY-5A ashore. Note the ram air scoops on the tops of the engines (not shown on drawing) and the hook-on access ladder at the side blister. Sea-blue camouflage on top of the wing is carried around to the bottom of the retracted wing-tip float.

HE Consolidated PBY flying boat, named "Catalina" by the British, was one of the oddities of the war. A 1933 design, it was widely used by the U.S. Navy, but was nearly obsolete by 1940. With no immediate replacement in sight, it was kept in production by the U.S. Naval Aircraft Factory (N.A.F.) at two Consolidated factories and in

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Wingspan	104 ft.
Length	63 ft., 10 in.
Wing Area	1,400 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	20, 190 lbs.
Gross Weight	35,420 lbs.
High Speed 175m	ph at 7,000 ft.
Cruising Speed	1,13mph
Armament MG; 2x.50-caliber MC bombs or depth charg	. 3x.30-caliber G; 4x1,000-lb. ges.

two Canadian plants. Eventually, it distinguished itself by becoming the most prevalent flying boat of all time: 3,276 were built in the U.S. and Canada, plus an estimated 150 under license in Russia.

In competition against the Douglas XP3D-1 patrol plane, Consolidated's XP3Y-1 was the winner and went into production as the dual-purpose

PBY-1 patrol bomberthe first monoplane ordered by the Navy for service with the fleet.

The prototype's powerplant was the 825hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830-58 twin-row engine, but this grew to the 1,200hp R-1830-92 in the final PBY-5A and PBY-6A models. The most notable outward changes were the large, transparent blisters over the side gun ports (first shown on the PBY-4) and the retractable tri-

cycle landing gear introduced on the PBY-5A ("A" for amphibian), which greatly increased its usefulness and production life. A taller tail appeared on the N.A.F. PBN-1 and the later PBY-6A.

A Consolidated plant was built in New Orleans to supplement PBY-5 production at San Diego. The N.A.F. made

minor changes to the 156 versions of the PBY-5, which was originally built as the "PBN-1" and later renamed "Nomad."

The Vickers plant in Cartierville, Canada, built 369 PBY-5s as "PBV-1As," with 230 going to the U.S. Army as "OA-10A" Observation Amphibians and 139 to the R.C.A.F., which named them "Cansos."

Boeing's Canadian plant in Vancouver built 317 PBY-5s

22

on U.S. Navy contracts as "PB2B." The slight difference in designation was owing to Boeing's having already built a PBB-1 design of its own. Boeing built 250 PB2B-1s. some of which were assembled from parts provided by Consolidated. Sixty-seven more PB2B-2s duplicated the high-tailed PBN-1 flying boat. Boeing also built 17 Catalina boats for the R.C.A.F. and 55 Canso amphibians. Consolidated built one PBY-5, 782 PBY-5As and 237 PBY-6As at New Orleans, with 75 of those 237 going to the U.S. Army as "OA-10Bs."

The PBYs saw service in all theaters of the war. An R.A.F. Catalina spotted the elusive German battleship Bismark, and this lead to its destruction. U.S. Navy PBY-5s and 5As were used for the additional duty of air-sea rescue, particularly in the Pacific, where



A PBY-5A afloat with its landing gear retracted.

some carried lifeboats under their wings. Other PBYs, painted dull, matte black, were used for night intruder operations against the Japanese. Rescue PBYs were nicknamed "Dumbo," while the intruders were referred to as "Black Cats."

The U.S. Navy operated PBYs until the late 1940s, but the Coast Guard and the Naval Reserves retained them until 1954 and '57, respectively.



CONSOLIDATED B-24 LIBERATOR



The B-24H-5-FO was built by the Ford Motor Co. with late-type waist gunners' windows. Camouflage was deleted from most U.S. Army combat planes in production early in 1944.

B ESIDES being one of the major U.S. heavy bombers of the war, the Consolidated B-24, named the "Liberator," has a distinction held by no other American military airplane: more B-24s were built (18,482) than any other mass-produced fighters, including the Curtiss P-40 (13,738) and the Republic P-47 (15,683).

The design of the B-24, Consolidated Model 32, originated in January 1939, as a counter-proposal to a U.S. Army request that Consolidated build Boeing B-17s under license. The proposal was accepted, and the XB-24 flew

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Powerplant	.P&W R-1830-65
1,2	00hp at 25,000 ft.
Wingspan	110 ft.
Length	
Wing Area	1,048 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	
Gross Weight	64,500 lbs.
High Speed	300mph at
	30,000 ft.
Range	2,100 miles at
215	mph at 25,000 ft.

on December 29, 1939. Such rapid development of a new model resulted from fitting a new bomber fuselage to the wing and tail of the existing Model 31 flying boat and adding two engines.

The Liberator was continually improved throughout the war. The early B-24A had 1,200hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830-33 engines without turbo-superchargers, but no armor or self-sealing fuel tanks, and it was defended by six .30-caliber, hand-swung machine guns. A powered top turret with two .50-caliber guns was added to the B-24C. as was a similar tail turret. Turbo-superchargers were added to the R-1830-41 engines of the B-24C to maintain takeoff power to 25,000 feet. The first significant production version, and the first to be combat-worthy, was the B-24D. A few of the final B-24Ds had retractable two-gun belly turrets, but that feature did not become standard until the B-24G, which also introduced a powered nose turret midway through production. Final defensive armament was 10, .50-caliber machine guns. Maximum bomb load was

8,000 pounds, usually reduced by the trade-off between bomb load and fuel for range.

Consolidated was allowed to build export versions for France, designated the "LB-30," and at the same time, the earliest B-24s were being built for the Army. This order was taken over by Britain. The R.A.F. also took some of the earliest B-24s, including six of the seven service-test YB-24s, but it released 26 of them, following the LB-30s to the U.S. Army. The Army used them initially as unarmed, long-range transports, but it used some as bombers in the Southwest Pacific after Pearl Harbor. Later, the Army requisitioned 75 undelivered LB-30s, but it eventually returned 23 to the R.A.F.

The B-24 was superior to the B-17 only in range, thanks to its high-aspect-ratio wing and new Davis airfoil section, so B-24s took over the longrange bombing in the Pacific until the B-29 came along. In Europe and North Africa, B-24s competed intensely against the B-17. The U.S. Navy acquired 977 B-24s from D through J. Despite their significant differences, all were designated "PB4Y-1 Patrol Bombers."

To meet its need for longrange transports, the Army had consolidated complete 287 B-24 airframes as unarmed C-87s, with elongated, streamlined noses and an airliner-type cabin, complete with passenger windows.

Britain ordered 159 LB-30s on cash contracts as "Liberator I" and "II," then received 2,040 B-24s from "D" through "L" under Lend-Lease. The British Liberator Mark numbers did not correspond directly to equivalent U.S. Army models. The 222 British B-24Ds were either Liberator Mark III bombers or Mark V patrol and reconnaissance planes, depending on how they were equipped. A mix of mostly B-24Js and a few Ls became 1,618 Liberator VIs and VIIIs. The 24 Mark VIIs were C-87s, not B-24s.

A few B-24s were converted and redesignated for other purposes—C-109 fuel transporters used in Africa and China, F-7 long-range photo-planes and AT-22 navigation trainers.

The demand for B-24s far exceeded the capacity of Consolidated's San Diego plant to produce them (it was also building PBY and PB2Y flying boats), so a Consolidated plant was built in Ft. Worth, TX. Three other manufacturers were also called on to supplement B-24 production. The output of B-24s at all five factories is listed below:

Consolidated, San Diego, CA (-CO)—1 XB-24 (converted to XB-24B); 159 LB-30; 7 YB-24; 9 B-24A; 9 B-24C. Mass-production of 2,452 D; 1,780 H; 2,792 J; 417 L; 916 M.

Consolidated, Ft. Worth, TX (-CF)—303 D; 244 F; 738 H; 1,558 J.

Douglas, Tulsa, OK (-DT)— 10 D; 167 E; 582 H; 205 J. Ford Motor Co., Ypsilanti, MI (-F0, built specifically for B-24 production)—480 E; 1,780 H; 1,587 J; 1,250 K; 1,677 M; 1 XB-24N; 7YB-24N.

North American, Dallas, TX (-NT)—430 G (-NT only); 536 J.



WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

CURTISS P-40 D-E-F KITTYHAWK



The British Curtiss Model 87A-2 Kittyhawk is similar to the U.S. Army P-40D. It has the standard coloring of the 1941-early 1942 period, with sand-and-spinach camouflage on the top and side surfaces, light-blue underneath, Type A roundels under the wing, Type B on top of the wing and Type A.1 on the side of the fuselage.

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THE P-40 was already obsolete when it first appeared in 1939, because it was a variant of the Curtiss Model 75, which was a prototype of the radial-engined U.S. Army P-36A that flew early in 1935. Export sales of the 81 and 87 models with liquid-cooled Allison V-1710 engines were good because of the desperate need for fighters of any kind. The P-40 was kept in production long past its prime.

U.S. Army Models—The Curtiss Model 87, used by the Army as the P-40D, E and F (plus later P-40s not listed here), differed notably from the earlier P-40 through P-40C (Curtiss Model 81) because the 1,040hp planetary-geared Allison V-1710-33 engine was replaced with the 1,150hp -39 model that used spur gears, which raised the thrust line and notably changed the nose contours. In the 22 P-40Ds,the two .50-caliber machine guns were omitted from the nose, and two .50s were put in each wing panel to replace the two .30s there. Cockpit rear-view windows were also enlarged. Empty weight of the P-40D was 5,790 pounds; gross weight was 8,670 pounds; top speed was 354mph at 15,000 feet. Wing area was the same as earlier models—236 square feet.

P-40E—These models were improved P-40Ds, with -39 engines, six wing guns and a gross weight of 8,840 pounds. The Army bought 2,320. Early versions saw action in the Pacific and China, but most were used as fighter-trainers in the U.S.

P-40E-1—With passage of the famous Lend-Lease Act of March 1941, the U.S. provided the Allies with military aircraft.

Because these were procured and paid for through the appropriate military channels, they were required to have standard U.S. designations and serial numbers and to conform more closely to U.S. specifications. The Kittyhawk IA that was on order by Britain was almost a duplicate of the Army's P-40E, differing mainly in its use of British equipment and civil Allison V-1710-F3R engines. One year before adoption of the block number system, it was given the U.S. Army designation of P-40E-1 to accommodate its differences in the U.S. system. Some P-40E-1s were used by the U.S. Army and flew with U.S. markings over their British camouflage.

P-40F—A serious attempt was made to improve the performance of the obsolete P-40 when the Allison engine was replaced with the Ameri-



canized 1.300hp British Rolls-Royce Merlin engine (built by Packard as the V-1650-1). Unfortunately, the P-40 was too old, structurally and aerodynamically, to benefit as much from this change as did the North American P-51. The only outward difference from the P-40E was the elimination of the carburetor air scoop on top of the nose. Its gross weight increased to 9,870 pounds, and the only improvement was the speed at altitude — 364mph at 20,000 feet.

Despite this, the Army bought 1,311 P-40Fs (calling it Warhawk instead of Kittyhawk) as well as later models through P-40N. The first 699 P-40Fs were delivered before adoption of the block number system. The P-40F-5s and on had the rear fuselage lengthened 20 inches to improve directional stability. The Army took over 150 P-40Fs built for Britain as Kittyhawk II for use in North Africa in 1942 and '43.

British Designations—The Royal Air Force called its early Model 81 P-40s "Tomahawk," but the improved Model 87 was called "Kittyhawk," and retained its identification with Curtiss's "Hawk" for its export fighters.

The export Model 87 was

name of Warhawk when it acquired 330 P-40Fs and P-40Ls, but simply called them Kittyhawk II and Kittyhawk IIA. Eighty-one already delivered to the R.A.F. P-40E-1 was the U.S. Army designation given to Kittyhawk IAs that were delivered to Britain. This one has Army markings over British camouflage. Note the 52-gallon auxiliary fuel tank on the belly bomb rack.

originally ordered by France, but Britain took over the order. Major British use of Tomahawks and Kittyhawks was in North Africa starting in mid-1940.

Kittyhawk I—Britain bought 560 equivalents of the fourgun P-40D on cash contracts, with deliveries beginning in August 1941.

Kittyhawk IA—The 1,500 Kittyhawk IAs were equivalent to the P-40E and were delivered under Lend-Lease as P-40E-1 because of their differences in detail.

Kittyhawk II—The R.A.F. did not adopt the American

were transferred to the U.S. Army for use in North Africa, and others, with U.S. insignia over British camouflage, were delivered to the Army straight from the Curtiss factory.

Several P-40Es and ex-R.C.A.F. Kittyhawks can be seen flying today in the Warbird movement.

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This P-40F was repossessed from a British Kittyhawk II order and used by the U.S. Army in North Africa in 1943. Note the Britishtype unit markings, camouflage and tin flash.

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Note: To match the Wylam drawings, this description will cover only the "Short Fuselage" Curtiss Model 87s; the U.S. Army P-40D through P-40F; and the British "Kittyhawk" series.

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CURTISS SB2C HELLDIVER

An SB2C-1C with its retractable, leading-edge wing-slats open. Note the short-lived red border around the insignia as used in July/August 1942, and the use of topside camouflage on the outer (folding) panels of the wing. The plane in the background has folded wings and open bomb-bay doors.

HE SB2C Helldiver, which was the third Curtiss dive bomber to carry the name, became an effective attack plane late in the war, after a long development and debugging period. The XSB2C-1 flew in December 1940, but the production version didn't

appear until June 1942. The design was seriously handicapped by contradictory Navy requirements. with dimensions limited by aircraft carrier space requirements and performance handicapped by the

four-blade propeller, the 100-gallon drop tanks on wing bomb racks, the mounts for 5-inch rockets and the overall midnight-blue finish adopted for carrier-based airplanes early in 1944.

required military payload and equipment. Helldiver operations began in the Pacific in November 1943.

Helldivers were built in great variety. The 200 SB2C-1S ("SB" for Scout Bomber) were armed with four .50-caliber

machine guns in the wings. two power-driven .50s in the rear cockpit, a 1,000-pound bomb in an internal bomb bay and an additional 1.000 pounds of bombs under the wings. Wing area was 422 square feet and gross weight was 16,607 pounds. Top

The final Curtiss Helldiver model-the SB2C-5. Note the

speed was 273mph at 13,000 feet, but diving speed was limited by perforated and split trailing-edge flaps that served as dive brakes.

An oddity of the SB2Cs with 1942 to '43-style camouflage was that the undersides of the

outer wing panels carried dark topside camouflage because the undersurfaces were visible from above when the wings were folded.

The U.S. Army ordered 900 SB2C-1s under the designation of A-25A. These were built in Curtiss' existing St. Louis plant instead of the Columbus, OH, plant that had been built for SB2C production. Ten A-25As were sent to the Royal Australian Air Force. but they were rejected.

The 410 SB2C-1As were A-25As that were transferred to the U.S. Marines for use as trainers. The 778 SB2C-1Cs ("C" for Cannon) were successors to the SB2C-1, with two 20mm cannon substituting for the four .50-caliber machine guns in the wings. This was the standard armament for subsequent Helldivers. The single XSB2C-2 was a twinfloat seaplane that wasn't successful.

The 1,112 SB2C-3s were improved structurally and aerodynamically and used four-blade propellers on

1.900hp R-2600-20 engines. These were followed by 1,985 SB2C-4s, which had wing racks added for eight 5-inch rockets. Some SB2C-4s were fitted with a radar pod on the right-wing bomb rack for night operations and were designated SB2C-4E ("E" for Electronics). Curtiss' final production models were 970 SB2C-5s with increased fuel capacity.

Other manufacturers were called on to increase Helldiver production. The Canadian branch of Fairchild built 50 SB2C-1s as SBF-1 and 150 SB2C-3s as SBF-3. These were followed by 100 SB2C-4Es as SBF-4E.

Canadian Car and Foundry Company (Can-Car) built 40 SB2C-1s as SBW-1. A further 26 out of 200 ordered by Britain were delivered as SBW-1B ("B" for Britain). Can-Car then built 413 SB2C-3s as SBW-3, followed by 96 SB2C-4Es as SBW-4E. The 86 SBW-5s were completed from the cancelled SBW-1B order.

DOUGLAS BOSTON/ HAVOC/A-20

Sixty of the U.S. Army Douglas A-20s were completed as radar-equipped night fighters armed with four 20mm cannon in a belly pack. Note the overall matte-black finish and undersize national insignia.

DB-7C-Improved DB-7B:

Netherlands East Indies with

interchangeable noses: one for

a bomber and one containing

four 20mm cannon. Only half

ered, and it was in U.S. Army

DB-73-Similar to the DB-

of the order could be deliv-

A-20C form.

48 were ordered for the

D B-7s—This designation stood for Douglas Bomber, Model 7. The first production version was ordered by France in February 1939 as a three-seat bomber powered with 1,000hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830-SC3-G Twin Wasp engines. It had a transparent bomber nose, four

fixed forward-firing French machine guns, one flexible gun in the rear cockpit and a 2,000bomb load.

DB-7A Improved DB-7s with 1,600hp Wright R-2600-A5B Twin Cy-

At left: an early Douglas A-20A. Note the DB-7B-type nose, external pack for nose machine guns and use of rudder stripes and two wing stars before the marking change of February 1941. At right: an A-20G-40 with four .50-caliber nose machine guns and a long-range ferry tank under the belly.

clone engines and higher vertical tails. All DB-7As ordered by France were delivered to Britain.

DB-7B—Further improved models ordered by Britain.

7B, 480 were ordered by France in May 1940. They were redesignated by Douglas to distinguish them from the differently equipped DB-7Bs for Britain. standards. Four different missions were performed by Havoc Is, with the following special configurations: **1**. *Intruder*—Essentially French DB-7s with British

British Designations—

tified its airplanes by given

names rather than model

numbers, so the diverted

"Havoc" and "Boston".

DB-7s modified to British

French DB-7s and the new

American models were named

Havoc I-Former French

Britain's Royal Air Force iden-

armament and instruments replacing the French originals. **2.** *Night Fighter*—These had solid noses containing British Al Mk.IV radar, eight .303-caliber machine guns and a crew capacity reduced to two.

3. *Pandora*—Twenty DB-7s with bomb bays modified to carry a large aerial mine and 2,000 feet of cable. The object was to trail the mine ahead of enemy bomber formations and hope that it would hit one.

4. *Turbinlite*—Twenty unarmed ex-night fighters fitted in the nose with 2,700 million candlepower searchlights for finding and illuminating enemy aircraft for the night fighters.

Havoc II— One hundred ex-French DB-7As converted to night fighters with 12 .303 guns in a solid nose.

Boston I—Twenty of the earliest French DB-7s used as trainers by the R.A.F.

Boston II—Original designation for later French DB-7s; later redesignated Havoc I. Boston

III—The initial British order for 300 DB-7Bs was

followed by the transfer of 240 French-ordered DB-73s built by Douglas, and 240 that Douglas sub-contracted to Boeing. Tankage increased from the DB-7A's 240 U.S. gallons to

394 gallons to allow bomber operations over occupied Europe from England. Starting in mid-1941, many Boston IIIs were drafted into the U.S. Army Air Forces.

Boston IIIA—Later DB-7Bs procured for Britain via Lend-Lease were identified by the U.S. Army as A-20C and by Britain as Boston IIIA because of their differences from the all-British Boston III.

Boston IV—U.S. Army A-20Js, complete with American armament and coloring; 169 delivered to the R.A.F.

Boston V—Ninety U.S. Army A-20Ks delivered to the R.A.F.

U.S. Designations—There were several experimental and one-off variants of the U.S. Army A-20 and P-70 models, but only significant production versions will be detailed here. When the U.S. gave "popular" names to military aircraft for public discussion in October 1941, the A-20s and P-70s were given the existing British name of Havoc.

A-20—An improved DB-7A with side-mounted turbosuperchargers on 1,700hp military R-2600-7 engines (as distinguished from the civil-designated engines of the export models). Original armament was four .30-caliber machine guns in the nose, two flexible .30s in the rear cockpit, a flexible .30 in a ventral tunnel and a fixed .30 in each engine nacelle firing rearward. Normal bomb load was 16 100-pound bombs or four 250-pounders, Self-sealing, 394-gallon fuel tanks were an

innovation for an American warplane.

The turbo proved to be troublesome, so it was removed (since a plane intended for low-altitude work didn't need the high-altitude benefits of such an installation). The first A-20 was converted to the XP-70 night-fighter prototype, and three others became XF and YF-3 photoplanes. The remaining 59 A-20s were converted to P-70s.

A-20A—A further 123 improved models ordered on the same June 30, 1939, contract as the A-20s, but all were delivered with R-2600-11 engines without turbos.

A-20B—Improved A-20A with DB-7 nose, which was its principal recognition feature.

A-20C—Production models similar to the DB-7B except for their U.S. equipment; 375 were built by Douglas as A-20C-DO and 140 by Boeing as A-20C-BO.

A-20G-Major production A-20; 2.850 were built with solid noses and R-2600-23 engines. Early versions had four 20mm cannon in the nose, but these were replaced by four to six .50-caliber machine guns starting at A-20G-5. From A-20G-20 and on, the single .50-caliber gun in the rear cockpit was replaced by a pair of .50s in a Martin-powered turret, and a single .50 replaced the .30 in the ventral tunnel. Internal bomb load was 2,000 pounds, but an additional 2,000

pounds could be carried on four wing racks. Gross weight increased to 25,700 pounds.

A-20H—Similar to late A-20Gs but used 1,700hp R-2600-29 engines; 412 built.

A-20J—The 450 A-20Js featured a lengthened Plexiglas bomber nose that contained two fixed .50-caliber guns and the famous Norden bomb sight. These were "Lead Bombers" that sighted the target for other A-20s that released their bombs when signaled by the leader.

A-20K—This was the final model of the A-20 series, with the last of the 413 built delivered September 20, 1944. The airframe was similar to the A-20H, but it was equipped as the A-20J.

F-3 Series—The seventh A-20 was converted to the XF-3 photographic plane, still with turbos. The bomb racks were removed and a T-3A camera was installed in the bomb bay, but the defensive armament was retained. Two other A-20s became YF-3s without the turbos. In 1944, 46 A-20Js and A-20Ks were converted to F-3As and saw action in Europe.

P-70 Series—Sixty A-20s were re-equipped as matteblack night fighters and redesignated P-70. These had radar in a solid nose and four 20mm cannon in a pack under the bomb bay. Engines were non-turbo R-2600-11s. The 39 P-70A-1s were A-20Cs with improved radar and six to The British Havoc IV is a U.S. Army A-20J with the original Army serial number on the fin painted out. Note the lengthened Plexiglas nose, power turret and 500-pound bomb on the wing rack. GLAS BOSTO

eight .50-caliber guns in a belly pack. The A-20C defensive armament was retained. The 65 P-70A-2s were A-20Gs that were equipped as the P-70A-1s except for the deletion of flexible guns and the change to a glossy black finish. The P-70B-2s were modifications of 105 A 20Gs and A-20Js. The single P-70B-1 was an experimental model.

U.S. Navy BD Series—After testing of a former A-20 as the XF-3, the same airplane was stripped of armament and turbos, refitted with R-2600-3 engines and delivered to the U.S. Navy as-the BD-1 (Bomber, first model from Douglas, initial configuration) for utility work, such as target towing. It was followed by eight A-20Bs that were designated BD-2.

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NOTE: Since the Nye drawings contain production figures, dimensions and performance data, the text concentrates on model designations and the differences between them.

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SCALE AIRCRAFT

DRAWINGS




DOUGLAS A-26 INVADER

after early A-26 combat experience.

the nose. Some late versions

even had three guns in each

outer wing panel, plus wing

rockets. With external bombs.

racks for bombs or 5-inch

HE Douglas A-26 Invader was a logical successor to the A-20 Havoc that took advantage of combat experience. updated technology and improved mass-production methods. The design was proposed to the Army in January 1941, and a contract for three prototypes was received soon after. The first, designated XA-26, was a three-seat bomber similar to the A-20A: the second, XA-26A, was a two-seat night fighter. The XA-26B used the same airframe, but mounted a 75mm cannon in the right side of the nose.

The principal differences from the A-20 were a wider fuselage with side-by-side

seating for the pilot and co-pilot/ bombardier, two remotelysighted turrets, each with two .50caliber guns, and 2,000hp Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp engines.

The night-fighter concept was dropped, and production concentrated on two basic versions. The three-seat A-26B attack plane had a solid nose and a variety of fixed, forward-firing, .50-caliber guns. Six to eight were in the nose, and, in some cases, an additional four were carried in paired pods on each side of

differences bere a wider de-by-side the total bomb load was 6,000 pounds. As a result of early A-26 combat experience, the pilots' canopy was bulged slightly up-

Wingspan	70 ft., 0 in.
Length	50 ft., 0 in.
Wing Area	540 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	22,370 lbs.
Gross Weight	
High Speed 355n	nph at 15,000 ft.
Normal Range	1,400 miles

......50 ft., 0 in.50 ft., 0 in.540 sq. ft. and greatly improved allaround visibility. the A-26C was the light

bomber variant, still with

ward, which

the turrets but normally carrying only two .50-caliber guns in a lengthened Plexiglas bomber nose. Late A-26Cs also carried six wing guns.

The XA-26 first flew on July 10, 1942, and production models were in combat in the Pacific by the spring of 1944, but were not notably successful until improvements were made. Operations in Europe, starting in September, were more successful.

Close-up of a black-painted A-26C shows the molded Plexiglas bomber nose and the bulged pilots' canopy adopted

The Long Beach plant built 1,150 A-26B-DLs and five A-26C-DLs. A new plant in Tulsa, OK, built 205 A-26B-DTs and 1,086 A-26C-DTs.

The A-26s were redesignated B-26 in 1948 and saw extensive service in the Korean War, and some service in the Vietnam war until 1969. The R.A.F. had ordered 140 A-26Bs but received only two before V-J day. The U.S. Navy received 152 surplus A-26Cs after the war and used them as JD-1 utility planes. They were redesignated UB-26J in 1962. The Air Force retained B-26s as trainers and utility types until 1972.

The XA-26B below shows the large propeller spinners used only on the prototypes and the 75mm cannon that was fitted to some production A-26Bs.

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Bottom: A Douglas A-26B-30-DL with four .50-caliber machine guns in the right side of the nose and two in the left. The standard turrets for all A-26s are not shown on the drawing.





DOUGLAS C-54 SKYMASTER



The third Douglas DC-4 was built as an airliner but was delivered to the U.S. Army in war paint as a C-54.

T HE Douglas DC-4 Skymaster, which was produced for the U.S. Army as the C-54, was the most widely used four-engine transport and cargo plane of World War II, with 953 planes built in seven Army versions. Surprisingly, though, the plane didn't originate as a military airplane.

Early in 1936, five U.S. airlines put up \$100,000 each to help Douglas develop a new, long-range airliner, the DC-4, that would meet their anticipated requirements. Two airlines soon backed out, but the DC-4 was completed and flown in June 1938. Its powerplants were new 1,450hp Pratt & Whitney R-2180-S1A1-Gs; its wingspan was 138 feet, 3 inches; and its gross weight was 65,000 pounds. It proved to be too difficult to maintain, however, and with a passenger capacity of only 52, it wasn't cost-effective. After the DC-4 was tested on the three airlines' routes, the airlines and Douglas decided to develop a smaller, more efficient model, still called DC-4. The original was then redesignated DC-4E ("E" for Experimental) and was sold to Japan.

In mid-1939, Douglas began work on a new design to meet the airlines' revised requirements. This airplane had a wingspan of only 117 feet and a wing area of 1,460 square feet (compared to the 2,155-square-foot wingspan



This U.S. Navy R5D-2 was originally a C-54B built for the Army. Note the large, single-wing, trailing-edge flaps and the application of a U.S. Navy serial number and Naval Air Transport Service insignia to the nose.

of the DC-4Es). Gross weight was 62,000 pounds, and passenger seating was 40, with a four-man cockpit crew. The engines were 1,350hp Pratt & Whitney R-2000-2SD1-Gs, and the production DC-4 and its military successors were the only airplanes to use them. About the only significant detail retained from the DC-4E was the tricycle landing gear. which was an innovation that proved to be well-suited to large airplanes. Top speed was 265mph; cruising speed was 192mph at 10,000 feet.

Douglas started a production line at Santa Monica for 61 DC-4s that were ordered by the airlines, but military demands precluded their deliverv. Even before the first DC-4 flew in February 1942, the entire production was requisitioned by the U.S. Army. The first 24, which were well along in construction as airliners. were designated C-54. Later airframes, which could be modified to meet military requirements, were designated C-54A.



This view of a C-54D shows the large, two-section cargo doors fitted to all C-54s from the C-54A on. Note the Army Air Transport Command insignia on the rear fuselage.

of the cabin tanks. There were 100 C-54B-DOs and 120 C-54B-DCs produced.

C-54C—One C-54A-DO was modified for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and included a cargo elevator (for bringing him aboard in his wheelchair), luxurious cabin furnishings and amenities suited to a VIP. The airplane was given such special attention that it was of the fuselage for testing as a paratroop deployment aircraft. No production was undertaken on this model.

C-54G—The final production model was the C-54G, with 162 built at Santa Monica as personnel transports. A further 235 were cancelled at the war's end, but Douglas completed them, and built others, as civil transports.

Below: this photo of the original DC-4E shows the many differences between it and the production-model DC-4. The plane's main contribution to later models was the tricycle landing gear.



The demand for C-54s was so great that Douglas established a new plant in Chicago for additional production. The C-54s built in Santa Monica were designated C-54-DO; those built in Chicago were designated C-54-DC. The U.S. Navy also used C-54s under the designation of R5D, but they weren't ordered directly from Douglas. All the Navy models were transferred from the Army, as were 23 Skymasters for Britain.

Only the first few C-54s, and none of the R5Ds,were camouflaged, as they weren't expected to fly into combat zones. Army C-54s were procured in the following versions:

C-54—The initial 24 started as airliners and were delivered to the Army with minimal modification. Four fuel tanks were installed in the cabin for extra range, and an extra compartment was built ahead of a shorter cabin for additional military crew. Passenger capacity was reduced to 14. The civil engines were redesignated R-2000-3.

C-54A—The remainder of the original airline orders and later Army production totaled 252: 97 C-54A-DOs and 155 C-54-DCs. Major changes were a large 67x94-inch, twosection cargo door on the left side of the fuselage and a reinforced floor to accommodate heavy cargo. Gross weight increased to 73,000 pounds with the addition of R-2000-7 engines.

C-54B—These were improved C-54As with additional wing fuel tanks replacing two irreverently nicknamed "The Sacred Cow."

C-54D—Built only in Chicago, the 380 C-54D-DCs were improved C-54Bs with R-2000-11 engines.

C-54E—The 125 C-54E DOs were built in Santa Monica and were similar to C-54Bs except for their increased fuel capacity. The cabin was rearranged to permit a quick change from all-cargo to 50 troops in canvas seats.

XC-54F-One C-54B-DC had jump doors on each side U.S. Navy Skymasters— The C-54s transferred to the U.S. Navy were designated as follows: R5D-1: 56 C-54A, R5D-2: 30 C-54B, R5D-3: 86 C-54D, R5D-4: 20 C-54E and R5D-5: 13 C-54G.

Postwar Use—Civil DC-4s and converted C-54s went into airline service soon after the war. Although they outnumbered the newer Lockheed Constellation, they were at a competitive disadvantage because they weren't pressurized. The most notable postwar uses of the C-54 RHD were the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49, with 336 Skymasters involved, and a major airlift operation during the Korean War.

Postwar modifications and redesignations of C-54s and R5Ds resulted in designations as high as C-54S. The last Air Force and Navy C-54s weren't retired until the early 1970s.





W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

FAIRCHILD PT-19, PT-23, PT-26



A silver Fairchild-built PT-23 with 220hp Continental Radial engine and 1942-43 star markinas.

HE Fairchild M-62, which was the U.S. Army PT-19, was one of several successful entrants in a 1939 competition for new Army primary trainers and, with another winner, the Ryan ST-A (PT-16), it introduced monoplane primary trainers to the Army.

The PT-19 had a welded steel-tube fuselage with plywood-covered wooden wing and fixed tail surfaces, and fabric covering for fuselage

and control surfaces. Its initial powerplant was the 175hp inverted, six-cylinder, aircooled Ranger L-440-1 engine. Because of the low-wing configuration, a stout steel turnover pylon was built between the two open cockpits. The initial 1939 order for

270 PT-19s was soon supplemented by orders for 3,702 PT-19As with 200hp L-440-3 engines and 917 PT-19Bs equipped for instrument train-



Above: The first Fairchild-built PT-26 was a winterized PT-19A with enclosed cockpits. This airplane carried Royal Air Force serial number FH651 and U.S. Army serial number 42-12499. The R.A.F. designation was Cornell I. Roundels and fin flash are correct for the 1940 to mid-1941 period.

Below: A blue and yellow U.S. Army Fairchild PT-19 over Randolph Field, TX, in 1941.



ing. The demand for PT-19As was more than Fairchild could handle, so the work was split up. Fairchild built 3,181 PT-19A-FAs, Aeronca (-AE) built 477 and St. Louis (-SL) built 44. Aeronca also built 143 PT-19Bs; Fairchild built 774.

As a hedge against a shortage of Ranger engines, the 220hp Continental R-670-4 radial engine was substituted

in two PT-23s that were built by Fairchild. 375 by Aeronca, 199 by Howard (-HO), 200 by St. Louis and 93 by Fleet Aircraft in Canada (-FE).

Under the Lend-Lease Program of March 1941,

the U.S. Army provided British Empire forces with a winterized version of the PT-19A. which was designated PT-26. Fairchild built 670 as Cornell I:

Fleet built 807 as Cornell II. Fleet built a further 250 PT-26Bs as Cornell III. Most of these carried R.A.F. or R.C.A.F. markings and serial numbers and were painted yellow, and because they were being paid for with U.S. Army funds, they also carried the appropriate U.S. Army designation and serial numbers. The U.S. Army received 517 Canadian-built PT-26As with U.S. markings.

The drawing shows an R.C.A.F. Cornell II built by Fleet. Although it was delivered in 1943, it carried the wide, late-1940-style fin flash and the Type-A roundels that were discontinued in June 1942. Canada was noted for using older markings on new-production aircraft until the end of the war.

The plane illustrated here carried three military serial numbers-U.S. Army 42-65690; FV215, originally assigned by the R.A.F.; and 15116, adopted after it was

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE **PT-26A**

35 ft., 11 in.
27 ft., 8 in.
200 sq. ft.
2,020 lbs.
2,630 lbs.
128mph

by private owners.

transferred to the R.C.A.F. Most PT-26s were yellow, but some were finished in silver. U.S. Army PT-19s were prewar blue and yellow through the spring of 1942; after that, they were silver.

The low cost

and simplicity of the various Fairchild PTs made them popular on the surplus market after the war, and many are still used

W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



FAIRCHILD PT-19, PT-23, PT-26

FIAT CR 42 FALCON

T HE Italian Fiat CR 42 Falco (Falcon) has the distinction of being the last biplane fighter to be produced and put into first-line service by a major warring power. The prototype of this thoroughly anachronistic, open-cockpit, fabriccovered biplane with fixed landing gear flew early in 1939. Production continued into 1942, and 1,781 were built.

The initials "CR" in the designation identify Celestino Rosatelli, a famous designer of long standing. His CR 42 evolved from a long line of CR fighters, starting with the CR 20 of 1923. All shared the unique feature of the Warren-Truss arrangement of the wing struts. All models through the CR 33 featured liquid-cooled engines, while subsequent models used air-cooled radial engines.

Its powerplant was the 840hp Fiat A.74 R.C.38 twinrow radial engine, and the initial armament was one 7.7mm and one 12.7mm machine gun in the nose. The later CR 42*ter* (third version) had four 12.7mm guns, two of which were in blisters in the lower wing. The CR 42 A.S. ("A.S." for "Africa Settentrionale," or North Africa) was a groundattack version with two 220-





The CR 42 that was captured during the Battle of Britain is shown here, with its original 1940 Italian camouflage and markings restored. The number BT474 on the fuselage isn't Italian; it's the R.A.F. serial number assigned to the plane when it was test-flown in England.

pound bombs, and the CR 42 C.N. ("CN" for "Caccia Notturna," or Night Fighter) was used as a defensive night fighter in Northern Italy. There was also a twin-float seaplane version, the ICR 42 ("I" for "Idrovolante." or Seaplane).

One CR 42 was fitted with a 1,020hp German Daimler-Benz DB-601 liquid-cooled engine, (used in the Me.109 as CR 42B), and turned in the almost unbelievable speed (for a biplane) of 323mph.

Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940, with 300 CR 42s. These planes fought everywhere the Italian Air

> Prewar Italian rudder markings were red, white and green stripes, with the crest of the ruling House of Savoy at the top of the white stripe.

Force was engaged, and were involved in some of the last significant biplane vs. biplane battles when CR 42s fought British Gloster Gladiators over Greece.

North Africa

Some CR

and Malta.

42s took

raids on

England

Battle of

during the

Britain in the

fall of 1940.

Italy's token

part in

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE CR-42

Wingspan	31 ft., 9 ³ /4 in
Length	27 ft., 2 3/4 in
Wing Area	240.5 sq. ft
Gross Weight	5,042 lbs
High Speed	
	at 6,560 ft

One was forced down intact and can be seen today in the Battle of Britain Museum near London. At least 113 CR 42s were still in service when Italy surrendered to the Allies on September 8, 1943. Italy joined the Allies and declared war on Germany on October 13, but the CR 42s were all in the hands of the part of Italy that remained loyal to Hitler. Four "escaped," however, to

> join the anti-Fascist Co-Belligerent Air Force.

The performance and price of the CR 42 made it popular on the export market. Sweden bought 72 CR 42*bis* (second version) models, each with two

12.7mm guns, and kept them in first-line service until 1945. Belgium bought 34 in September 1939, but most of these were destroyed on the ground by the Luftwaffe in the 1940 Blitz. Hungary also bought export models.





FOCKE-WULF 190A

T HE design of the Focke-Wulf 190 began in 1937 as a back-up to the Messerschmitt 109 that had been selected as the standard German fighter. The design concept was entirely different, featuring an air-cooled BMW radial engine and a wide-track, inward-retracting landing gear. The first flight of the FW-190V-1 prototype was on June 1, 1939, but production models weren't in combat until September 1941.

As a fighter, the FW-190A outperformed the older British Spitfire Vs that were surpassing the contemporary Me-109s. The Spitfire didn't catch up to the FW-190A until the appearance of the Spitfire IX in July 1942. Although it was designed as a fighter, the FW-190 was readily adaptable to many other missions. The FW-190A reached the -10 variant, with many sub-

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE FW-190A-8

Wingspan	34 ft., 51/2 in.
Length	
Wing Area	. 196.9 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	7,000 lbs.
Gross Weight	9,750 lbs.
Overload Weigh	t . 10,805 lbs.
High Speed	408mph at
19,680 ft.; 3	55mph at sea level.
Normal Range	500 miles



A "factory-fresh" FW-190A-1. Note the distinctive rear-sliding canopy and the wide-track landing gear. The unit markings on the fuselage are black.

variants carrying special equipment for specialized missions. These included aerial cameras for reconnaissance, batteries of up to six 30mm cannon for use against tanks and naval torpedoes for attacks against ships. There were even two-seat trainer versions.

Twin-engine German bombers had difficulty reaching targets in England in 1942 and 1943, so some FW-190A-5s were fitted with bomb racks and auxiliary fuel tanks. Normal bomb load was one 500kg (1,100-pound) bomb under the fuselage and two 250kg (550-pound) bombs under the wings, but some could carry a single 1,000kg (2,200-pound) bomb. This was so close to the ground that the lower fin of the bomb had to be clipped for the plane to take off. These long-range fighter-bombers were very successful in penetrating British defenses and completing effective raids.

The armament differed greatly in fighter versions, from the initial four 7.9mm machine guns (two in the nose and two in the wings), to a standard of two nose guns



This elevated view of an FW-190A-0 corrects the erroneous crosses on the drawing. Note the narrow borders and the locations of the upper wing crosses. The crosses on the underside of the wing are in the same position, but they're the wide-border type used on the fuselage.

and a variety of up to four wing guns or four 20mm wing cannon. For attacks on Allied bomber formations, some FW-190A-5/R6s were fitted with underwing pods for 210mm rockets.

Improved versions of the FW-190 were tested with features such as cabin pressurization and a water-methanol injection that increased the normal 1.600hp of the engine to 2.100hp for brief periods. Other engines were tried: the Me-109's 1,750hp Daimler-Benz DB-603, used in the experimental FW-190C, and the 1.776hp Junkers Jumo 213A, used in the production FW-190D. Later FW-190D variants were so extensively altered from the short-nose, radial-engined FW-190A series that they were redesignated "Ta-152" (for designer Kurt Tank).

Altogether, some 20,000 FW-190s were built in six Focke-Wulf plants, two Arado plants, one Ago plant and one Fieseler plant.



WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

GLOSTER GLADIATOR

HE evolution of the Gloster undiator, England's last biplane fighter, can be traced back to WW I. It was designed by H.P. Folland, who also designed the famous SE-5 used in that war, and the particular chord-gap-stagger relationships of the Gladiator's wings are strongly reminiscent of the SE-5. The Gladiator represented the final stage in England's development of the classic biplane fighter. It featured such latter-day refinements as single-leg landing gear and enclosed cockpit, and it reflected the trend toward increased armament.

The company-owned prototype, then designated S.S.17, flew in September 1934. Orders for 23 and then 186 were placed in July 1935. The Gladiator I's powerplant was the 840hp Bristol Mercury I, which drove a two-blade, fixed-pitch, wooden propeller. Its armament was four .303caliber machine guns (two in troughs in the fuselage sides and two in the lower wing). Later, a fixed-pitch, three-

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE GLADIATOR I

Wingspan	32 ft., 3 in.
Length	27 ft., 5 in.
Wing Area	323 sq. ft.
Gross Weight	4,750 lbs.
High Speed	253mph at 14,500 ft.



This restored Gladiator I has the postwar British civil registration G-AMRK. The prewar R.A.F. serial number was L8032. Note the absence of guns from fuselage troughs and underwing pods.

blade metal propeller was adopted.

By the time war started in September 1939, 13 R.A.F. squadrons were equipped with Gladiators, and several squadrons of "navalized" Sea Gladiators were in service aboard aircraft carriers. Extensive export sales started in 1937 and continued after the war began. Twenty-six went to Latvia, 14 to Lithuania and 36 to China, Sweden ordered 55. but 30 of these were later passed to Finland, where they fought Russian Polikarpov L-153 biplanes in the Russo-Finnish war of 1940. Some of these operated on skis.

Belgium received 22 Gladiators; Norway received 12. Most of these, however, were destroyed on the ground by the Luftwaffe in April and May of 1940. Almost all of the 15 Gladiators sold to Iraq were destroyed by the R.A.F. when they suppressed a revolt there in May 1941.

Two R.A.F. Gladiator squadrons were sent to France as soon as the war started. In

April 1940, one squadron was flown to Norway to assist in its defense and was soon joined by several squadrons of Sea Gladiators. In

the absence of suitable airfields, these fighters operated from the surfaces of frozen lakes. One squadron of Gladiators fought over England during the Battle of Britain. Sea Gladiators saw extensive action in the Mediterranean Theater and engaged Italian Fiat CR 42 biplanes over Greece, North Africa and particularly Malta, where four won great fame during their lone defense of the island in



Line-up of nine Gladiator Is in prewar, all-silver finish. Note the large, fixed-pitch wooden propellers, (later replaced with three-blade metal models), and the hingedown door for cockpit access.

April 1940. The last Gladiators were retired from the R.A.F. late in 1941, but some of the exported and passed-on models continued to fight on.



STER GLADIAT

GRUMMAN F4F WILDCAT

ROM 1934, when Boeing delivered its last F4B-4, until 1939, the Grumman Aircraft Company of Bethpage. Long Island, NY, was the sole supplier of single-seat fighters to the U.S. Navy. In 1936, Grumman designed its Model 16, a biplane fighter that was designated "XF4F-1." Before it was built, however, the Navy ordered a new monoplane fighter, the XF2A-1, from Brewster. Realizing that the era of the biplane fighter was ending, Grumman got Navy authorization to discontinue the XF4F-1 and redesign it as a monoplane, designated "XF4F-2," Grumman Model 18. It flew on September 2. 1937.

The XF4F-2 was powered with a 1,050hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830-66 engine and had two .50-caliber guns mounted in the nose. It lost to the XF2A-1 in the initial Navy fly-off competition, returned to the factory and was extensively rebuilt as the XF3F-3, Grumman Model 36. Grumman won an order for an eventual 285 F4F-3s and 95



A Grumman F4F-3 ready for delivery to Squadron VF-41 aboard the carrier U.S.S. Ranger in December 1940. It was silver, with chrome-yellow wing tops and the green tail that was on all Ranger aircraft. The star insignia on the nose identifies the plane as one that was used in the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Neutrality Patrol in 1940-41.

F4F-3As named "Wildcat," which started the famous line of Grumman Navy fighters with various "Cat" names that continues today.

PRODUCTION GRUMMAN WILDCATS—The production F4F-3s differed from the prototype in that they had a 1,200hp R-1830-76 or -86 engine and four .50-caliber guns in the fixed wings instead of two in the nose. One plane was tested as the



An F4F-3 Wildcat with the oversize star insignia and the rudder stripes that were used early in 1942 for positive identification. The fuselage legend 41-F-8 identifies Airplane No. 8 of the first (of two) fighter squadrons aboard Ranger (CV-4), identified by the figure "4." At that time, carrier-based squadrons used the hull number of their parent carrier.

F4F-3S seaplane on twin floats, but it wasn't produced. The F4F-3As had a 1,200hp R-1830-90 engine with singlestage superchargers instead of the two-stage models of the F4F-3. Deliveries of the F4F-3 began in August 1940 and didn't end until May 1943, five months after the last F4F-4 was delivered.

Grumman's major production model was the F4F-4, which differed from the -3 in that it had manually folded wings and six wing guns. Grumman built 1,168 F4F-4s and 220 F4F-4Bs that went to the R.A.F. as "Wildcat IV." The first F4F-4 flew on November 7, 1941; the last was delivered on December 31, 1942.

Grumman built experimental variants of the Wildcat through XF8F-8, but they didn't build any production versions.

GENERAL MOTORS WILD-

CATS—When Grumman couldn't keep up with the demand for Wildcats, the Navy asked General Motors to become a second source. Parts were built in three GM plants in New Jersey and were brought together for final assembly at GM's Eastern Aircraft Division in Linden, NJ. The 1,060 FM-1s differed from the F4F-4 mainly in that they had only four wing guns but carried more ammunition. The 4,777 FM-2s were production versions of Grumman's XF4F-8, a lighter version of the Wildcat intended for operations from small escort carriers. This model had only four guns and was powered by the 1,350hp Wright R-1820-56 single-row engine. The most notable feature of the XF4F-8 and the FM-2 was the higher vertical tail. Late FM-2s could



The British Martlet I was one of the 91 Grumman G-36As built for France that couldn't be delivered. This model had two nose guns and two to four wing guns, and Wright Cyclone engines instead of the Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp of the equivalent F4F-3.

carry up to six 5-inch rockets under the wings. Production of the FM-2 continued until August 1945.

EXPORTED WILDCATS AND MARTLETS—Late in 1939, the Navy authorized the sale of the Grumman Model G-36A (export equivalents of the F4F-3) to France. These differed from the Navy models in that they used the 1,200hp commercial Wright Cyclone G-205A (R-1820) engine, French instrumentation, and the unique French reversethrottle system in which the throttle was pulled back (rather than pushed forward) These were sent by ship in March, but Greece fell to Hitler while they were at sea, and they were diverted to England.

BRITISH MARTLETS AND WILDCATS—In addition to the aircraft that it ordered from the U.S., Britain acquired many planes that had been ordered by other countries but couldn't be delivered. The 91 Martlet Is, so named before the Navy named the Wildcat, were French G-36As modified to use British equipment. The 100 Martlet IIs were ordered by the R.A.F. as equivalents to the F4F-3A, but with civil Pratt & Whitney S3C-4G Twin Wasp using the Navy name, but continuing to use the Martlet numbers. The 220 Wildcat IVs were Lend-Lease F4B-4Bs ("B" for Britain), the 312 Wildcat Vs were FM-1s and the 370 Wildcat VIs were FM-2s.

WILDCATS IN ACTION— The first combat by Wildcats (actually Martlets) was in October 1940. One of the ex-French G-36As of the Fleet Air Arm based in the Orkney Islands shot down a Junkers Ju 88 for the first victory by an American fighter in British service. Martlets and Wildcats saw extensive service from British carriers throughout the

Corps wartime experience with Wildcats was disastrous. Many were destroyed on the ground during the attacks on Wake Island and Hawaii, and the surviving F4F-3s on Wake Island were soon overwhelmed by superior Japanese forces. The Wildcat was no match for the Japanese Zero, but it could absorb punishment better. By the time the U.S. went on the offensive in August 1942, the Navy had developed Wildcat tactics specifically for use against the Zero, and the victory record became impressive. Of 11 Marine Corps pilots who won the Medal of Honor during the war, six flew Wildcats.

As the Wildcats were replaced on the large carriers by Hellcats, they were reassigned to the smaller escort carriers and saw extensive service in support of the U.S. invasions

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Below: General Motors Wildcats. At left, an FM-1, similar to Grumman's F4F-4. At right, an FM-2 in British markings as "Wildcat VI." Note the increased height of the vertical tail on this Cyclone-powered plane.



for "open." Its armament was a pair of French Darne 7.5mm guns in the nose and two to four others in the wings. The first of 91 G-36As flew on May 10, 1940, the day Hitler invaded France, so the planes were taken over by Britain. Early in 1941, the Navy released 30 F4F-3As to Greece. engines. The first 10 had fixed wings and four guns; the rest had folding wings and six guns.

Britain decided to go along with the Navy name for the Lend-Lease Wildcats that they received. The 30 F4F-3As destined for Greece were therefore designated "Wildcat III,"



war, including the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Their main service was in the North Atlantic, operating from small escort carriers, where they were highly successful in destroying German aircraft that were shadowing and attacking the Allied convoys.

Initial U.S. Navy and Marine

of Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. Carrier-based Wildcats supported the U.S. invasion of North Africa in November 1942, and, accompanied by British Martlets, shot down many defending Vichy French aircraft, including American-built Curtiss 75 fighters.





SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS W W 11





GRUMMAN TBF AVENGER

WHEN the obsolete Douglas TBD-1 Devastator was retired after the Battle of Midway in June 1942, the Grumman-designed Avenger became the only designated Torpedo-Bomber to serve with the U.S. Navy. Other types could and did carry and launch torpedoes, but that wasn't their primary duty.

In April 1940, the Navy awarded Grumman a contract to design and build two XTBF-1s (Grumman Model G-40). These followed the Navy tradition of a using a large, threeseat, single-engine airplane as its dedicated torpedo plane. The configuration of the TBF. later named "Avenger," drew heavily on Grumman's F4F fighter. It featured the same kind of wing folding, but had the landing gear installed on a fixed stub center section, with the wheels retracting outward into the outer wing panels. A naval torpedo or up to 2,000



A General Motors-built TBM-1 Avenger. The blue-gray and light-gray color scheme was used into early 1943; the centerless, unbordered star was used from May 15, 1942, through June 29, 1943.

pounds of bombs could be carried in a completely enclosed bomb bay—the first on a Navy torpedo plane. The initial armament was a single .50-caliber machine gun in the nose, a single .50-caliber in a dorsal turret and a single .30-caliber firing rearward from the belly.

The first XTBF-1 flew on August 1, 1941; the first production model, ordered in



A Grumman TBF-1 with two-tone camouflage and the Navy rudder stripes used only from January 4, 1942, through May 15, 1942.

December 1940, flew in Januarv 1942. Because Grumman's plant was heavily involved in fighter production, the Eastern Aircraft plant of General Motors was asked to build Avengers (in addition to the Wildcats already being built there), and designate them "TBMs." The two plants pro-duced 9,836 Avengers: 2,990 by Grumman and 7,546 by General Motors. Grumman's production ended early in 1944, but General Motors carried on until the postwar cancellations.

While both firms developed several experimental variants of the Avenger, the principal production versions were -1s from Grumman and

-1s and -3s from GM. Grumman built 1,525 TBF-1s and 764 TBF-1Cs (the latter had two .50-caliber guns in the wings). General Motors built 550 TBM-1s, 2,730 TBM-1Cs and 4,657 TBM-3s. Special-purpose variants of the Avenger were plentiful. The TBF-1D had special radar, and the TBF-1CP had reconnaissance cameras. The TBF-1E had search radar for antisubmarine patrol, the TBF-1J was equipped for all-weather flying, and the TBF-1L carried a searchlight in the bomb bay for night attack missions.

Similar suffix letters (plus others) applied to the TBM-3s. The TBM-3H had special search radar, and the TBM-3W, widely used after the war, had APS-20 search radar in a large belly radome, which required additional vertical fins for longitudinal stability. The similar TBM-3W2 had the dorsal turret removed and faired over. These planes teamed with TBM-3S Strike variants to form anti-submarine Hunter-Killer pairs. Other postwar TMB-3 variants were the TBM-3U target tug, the TBM-3N night fighter, the



A TBM-3 with the white and gray camouflage adopted in June 1944 for anti-submarine patrol missions. Note the underwing posts for rockets and the camera outboard of the rocket mounts.

TBM-3Q (for radar countermeasures) and the seven-seat TBM-3R transport.

Britain's Royal Navy received 957 Avengers (which they originally named "Tarpon") as follows: Avenger I, 401 TBF-1Bs ("B" for Britain) and TBF-1Cs; Avenger II, 334 TBM-1s; Avenger III.

222 TBM-3.

The combat debut of the Avenger at the Battle of Midway on June 6, 1942, was a complete disaster. Crews from Torpedo Squadron 8 on the carrier U.S.S. Hornet flew six new TBF-1s from the East Coast all the way to Hawaii. There they found that their ship, with the squadron's old TBDs, had already left for Midway Island, so the Avengers had to fly there.

The battle, although a major victory for the U.S., was a disaster for Torpedo 8. It proved that big, slow, lowlevel torpedo planes couldn't penetrate the defenses of a complete fleet on the open sea that was defended by surface guns and carrier-based fighters. All of Torpedo 8's TBDs and five of its six TBFs were diminish the Navy's interest in the type (as shown by the production figures), but it did change their tactics. TBMs remained in first-line fleet service until June 1954, and others served in the reserve training squadrons for several more years. Surplus Avengers were widely used as aerial tankers (to fight forest fires), and some are still in use in 1990—50 years after the Avenger was designed.

SA.



In a typical WW II publicity photo, Navy crewmen load a torpedo into the bomb bay of a TBM-1.



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wiped out, and the survivor was severely crippled. The major damage to the Japanese ships was done by Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers.

Loss of the torpedo planes in this first attack on a complete high-seas fleet didn't A General Motors TBM-3 Guppy with a belly radome and faired-over dorsal gun turret. Note the added fin area. It had the overall glossy sea-blue camouflage adopted for ship-based fighters in March 1944. Other carrier types adopted it in October.









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SCALE AIRCRAFT

DRAWINGS

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GRUMMAN F6F HELLCAT



FTER studies convinced A Grumman that the performance of the F4F Wildcat couldn't be improved by the installation of a larger engine, the company opted for an entirely new design-the Grumman 50. The model carried six .50-caliber machine guns and was powered by the 1,600hp Wright R-2600 Twin Cyclone engine. It differed most from the F4F in that its wing was lower and it had rearward-retracting landing gear, which was in the wing rather than in the fuselage. Also, the landing gear retracted aft while rotating 90 degrees to lay flat in the trailing edge of the wing in the same manner as the Curtiss P-40. Retained from the F4F was the manually folding wing with a 45-degree hinge.

A wooden mock-up of the

An early production F6F-3 Hellcat with the two-tone gray camouflage that was still used in early 1943. Note the use of stars on both wings and the use of fairings around the muzzles of the six wing guns (later deleted).

new design was built for Navy inspection, which took place on January 12, 1941. In June, the Navy placed an order for two XF6F-1 prototypes with 1,700hp (T.O.) R-2600-10 engines. As is often the case, many changes were made between the mock-up and the first flying prototype, most notably an increase in wingspan, from 31 feet, 4 inches to 33 feet, 6.5 inches; wing area, from



F6F-5s on the deck of the USS Essex in April 1945. Note the belly tanks and underwing rockets on both airplanes, and the deck crew manually folding one plane's wing (center). The various white markings shown here were adopted in late 1943 to identify airplanes from different aircraft carriers.

290 to 334 square feet; and length, from 41 feet, 6 inches to 42 feet, 10 inches. There were also many changes in installed equipment. The first XF6F-1, now officially named "Hellcat," flew on June 21, 1942. A notable detail not seen on the production Hellcats was a large propeller spinner.

The second prototype would have had a turbo-supercharged version of the R-2600 engine and been redesignated "XF6F-2." The Navy, however, directed a change to the 2,000hp (T.O.) Pratt & Whitney R-2800-10 engine, so the airplane was redesignated "XF6F-3" and became the prototype of the production articles. It first flew on July 30, 1942. After a crash caused by engine failure, the XF6F-3 was rebuilt as the XF6F-4 with an



Shown above is an F6F-3 with the short-lived red-bordered insignia and the new (since February 1943) camouflage that used dark blue-gray for top surfaces and graduated to glossy white for undersurfaces. Below: an F6F-5N (with a 20mm cannon and a wing-tip radar pod) that shows off the glossy, overall sea-blue camouflage that was adopted for carrier-based fighters in February 1944 and later expanded to cover most U.S. Navy tactical planes and some support planes.



R-2800-27 engine, and was later used to test cannon armament.

The abandoned XF6F-2 designation was revived in 1944 when the last production F6F-3 was fitted with a turbosupercharged R-2800 engine with a four-blade propeller.

Delivery of the 4,402 production F6F-3s from Bethpage began early in 1943. The Hellcats entered combat on August 31, 1943, during an attack on Marcus Island in the Western Pacific. Later-production -3s had a rack under the right wing for up to 1,000 pounds of bombs.

Production variants of the F6F-3 were 150 F6F-3N night fighters with APS-6 radar in a pod built into the right wing; 18 similar F6F-3E night intruders with APS-4 radar; and several F6F-3Ps with long-focallength cameras mounted vertically in the fuselage. All of these variants retained their six-gun wing armament and could also carry a 150-gallon drop tank under the fuselage. A total of 252 F6F-3s was provided to Britain's Fleet Air Arm (FAA) under Lend-Lease. They were to have been designated "Gannet," but the British decided to use the American designation of "Hellcat I."

After the war, many F6F-3s were converted to unmanned, radio-controlled drones that were designated "F6F-3K" for use as anti-aircraft targets, for research into atom-bomb clouds and, in some cases, as guided bombs.

Although outwardly similar to the F6F-3, the 7,868 F6F-5s differed in that they had waterinjected R-2800-10W engines, additional armor and revised engine cowlings and windshields. Racks for up to 1,000 pounds of bombs could now be carried under each wing, and late production articles could be fitted with racks for five 5-inch rockets under each wing. Deliveries began in April 1944.

Variants were as for the F6F-3, notably 1,189 F6F-5Ns with APS-6 radar pods. Some late -5Ns had their inboard .50-caliber machine guns replaced with 20mm cannon. There were also F6F-5E night intruders and F6F-5P photoplanes. Britain received 925 F6F-5s.

It should be noted that by 1944, Britain had begun to use prefix letters to identify special-purpose variants of basic models. The 849 plain F6F-5s became Hellcat II, but the 76 F6F-5Ns became Hellcat N.F.II ("N.F." for Night Fighters).

The last of 12,275 Helicats, all built at Bethpage, was delivered on November 21, 1944. After the war, some F6F-5s were converted to F6F-5K drones, while others became F6F-5D drone controllers. In later years, F6F-5s were provided to Argentina, France, Paraguay and Uruguay for their naval air forces. The U.S. Navy used F6F-5Ns as night fighters until 1953, and others were used by the reserve training squadrons into 1956.

The Hellcat was the Navv's most numerous carrier-based fighter and it guickly proved its superiority over the previously invincible Mitsubishi A6M Zero. It was also the Navy's most combat-effective fighter and is officially credited with 4.947 air-to-air victories by carrier-based units, with a further 209 credited to landbased and Marine Corps units. Some of the British Hellcats were modified in England to carry British rocket launchers and became Hellcat F.R. II fighter-reconnaissance models, while a few became P.R. II photo-reconnaissance versions. Put into service in December 1943, the British Hellcats saw action over the English Channel in April 1944. Eleven squadrons served in Southeast Asia seas until the end of the war. The last Hellcats left British service in August 1946 and were returned to the U.S. with the other Lend-Lease models.









HAWKER HURRICANE



A Hawker-built Hurricane IIC with a tropical air filter, two 44 Imperial Gallon drop tanks and four 20mm cannon.

T HE Hawker Hurricane was a major milestone in the evolution of British fighter planes. Monoplanes weren't new to the type, but the Hurricane set new standards of armament and performance in one stroke. When it appeared in 1935, with eight guns, it was the world's most heavily armed fighter, and it was Britain's first to exceed 300mph.

Delivery of the Hurricane to the squadrons began at the end of 1937, and the plane went on to play a major role in the Battle of Britain in 1940. Although much of that glory must be shared with the Supermarine Spitfire, the Hurricane did the majority of the defensive work. There were 32 Hurricane squadrons in the battle (compared to 19 Spitfire squadrons), and the Hurricane's simple structure enabled damaged aircraft to be repaired more quickly. Its easy-maintenance features also reduced

turnaround time.

Design of the Hurricane began as a private venture by the Hawker Aircraft Company of Kingston-On-Thames in January 1934, when Sidney Camm became aware of a new 910hp Rolls-Royce engine that was being developed. Camm sought to design a new monoplane to capitalize on this advanced engine, which was later ordered into production as the famous "Merlin." Previous Hawker fighters had all been biplanes, and the new Hurricane was a prime example of a transitional design. The details of the fuselage, tail, nose and radiator of the monoplane closely resembled those of the biplanes, but its major difference was the fitting of a metal-frame, fabric-covered monoplane wing that contained an inward-retracting landing gear in place of the biplane's lower wing. In September 1934, Hawker showed drawings of the new design (which used two nose guns and one gun in each wing) to the Air Ministry. An official specification was written to cover the design, and a contract for a prototype was awarded on January 10, 1934.

During construction, the armament was revised to use eight .303-rifle-caliber machine guns that were entirely enclosed in the thick wing (the guns noted on the drawings should be .303 rather than the stated .30 caliber). The prototype flew on November 1. 1935, and demonstrated a high speed of 315mph at 16,200 feet (5,000 meters). Production orders followed for a total of 3,759 Hurricane Is. and later models brought the total number of Hurricanes to 14.557.

Early production Hurricanes were fitted with 1,030hp Merlin II engines that drove two-blade, fixed-pitch,



The first production Hurricane I, with a fixed-pitch, wooden propeller. Note how orthochromatic film makes the red and yellow of the Type A.1 fuselage roundel appear dark, and the blue appear light.



were soon replaced with vari-The last Hurricane built: a Mark IIC. Note "The Last of the Many" painted below the cockpit. There's a Type C.1 roundel on able-pitch, three-blade metal the fuselage and a Type B roundel on the wing top. units. Production was increased by building Hurricanes at the Gloster Aircraft Company and the Austin Motor Company in England and at the Canadian Car and Foundry Company in Canada. Licenses to build Hurricanes were also granted to some "friendly" countries, but the outbreak of war cancelled most of these projects.

wooden propellers, but these

The Hurricane adopted several significant state-of-the-art improvements during the production of the Mark I. The wing structure was changed to all-metal; constant-speed propellers were adopted; and armor for the pilot and fuel tanks was added. For service in North Africa and in the Middle East, a "tropicalized" version was developed that featured dust filters for the engine air intake and other details which were dictated by operations and maintenance in desert conditions. Hurricanes were also adapted to naval operations from aircraft carriers by the fitting of arrester hooks, and operated under the name "Sea Hurricane."

The appearance of the 1,280hp Merlin XX engine with a two-stage supercharger resulted in the major Hurricane model-the Mark II-which had many variants, mostly in the arrangement of armament. Two different wings were built, one for 12 .303 guns (Mark IIB) and the other for four 20mm cannon, plus hard

points for up to 500-pound bombs (Mark IIC). The Mark IIA had the original eight-gun wing; the Mark IID had two 40mm cannon that were mounted below the wing. There was to have been a

British-built Hurricane III with the American Packard-Merlin engine, but it was never produced. The Hurricane IV (originally the "Mark IIE"), with a 1,620hp Merlin 27 engine, was designed for

low-level attack missions with a wing that could be fitted with two 40mm cannons, bombs, drop tanks, or rockets. There were only two Hurricane Vs. These were Mark IVs that were fitted with 1,635hp Merlin 32 engines and four-blade propellers. After testing, they were reconverted to Mark IVs.

Packard-Merlin 28 engine and American Hamilton-Standard propellers in the basic MarkIIB

A Gloster-built Sea Hurricane IB with an arrester hook extended (top), and a Hawkerbuilt IIB carrying 250-pound bombs. Compare the color rendition of the roundels when photographed on panchromatic film with a yellow filter.

In Canada, use of the

airframe resulted in the Mark X in 1941. The Mark XI was similar except for its Canadian equipment. The Mark XII used the Packard-Merlin 29 and had a 12-gun wing; the Mark XIIA had eight guns.

Altogether, Hawker built 9,900 Hurricanes: Gloster, 2,749; Austin, 300; Canadian Car, 1,606; and Avions Fairey (in Belgium), 2. The last Hurricane built, a Mark IIC, was delivered by Hawker in September 1944.

As a fighter, the Hurricane was generally surpassed by the German Messerschmitt Me 109. As the Hurricane was improved, so was the Me 109. The Hurricane was outclassed as an interceptor fighter by mid-1942, but with the new wing and heavier armament, it became a highly successful low-level fighter-bomber and tank buster.

Some 2,952 Mark IIs and IVs were supplied to Russia during the war, and this produced quite an oddity. Hawker sold 12 Hurricanes to Finland in January 1940 during that country's first war with Russia, and by the time of the second, or "Continuation," war, the Russians also had Hurricanes. Further, in a reversed Lend-Lease operation, Britain supplied Hurricanes to American fighter squadrons that arrived in Europe and North Africa but were not yet equipped with American fighters.








WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

75