## KAWASAKI KI 61 TONY



A flight view of a Kawasaki Ki 61-I Tony that was captured by the Allies and tested after being repainted with non-standard coloring. The restored Japanese insignia was used for publicity purposes. Note the extremely clean design and radiator installation similar to the North American P-51.

HIS Kawasaki fighter, like other Japanese aircraft of WW II, is a source of confusion to Westerners because it has several designations. In

the official sequential Kitai Army aircraft numbering system adopted in 1932, it's "Ki 61." It's also "Army Type 3 fighter" in the system where the number is the last digit of the Japanese dynastic Year 2603. (equivalent to 1940), the year in which

## SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE KI 61-1b

Wingspan 39 ft., 4 7/16 in.
Length
Wing Area
Empty Weight 4,872 lbs. Gross Weight 6,504 lbs. (7,165 lbs. with overload)
High Speed
Service Ceiling 37,730 ft.
Max Range 684 miles

the aircraft was designed. Further, the Allies, not knowing the true Japanese designations, assigned code names to all known Japanese airplanes. Believing that the Ki 61 was derived from an Italian design, they code-named it "Tony." While most Japanese fighters used air-cooled radial engines prior to the war, the Ki 61 used a Japanese version of the 1,050hp

> German Daimler-Benz DB-601A that the Kawasaki Aircraft Engineering Co. built under license as the Ha 40. Kawasaki then built the Ki 61 to utilize this engine. This aircraft was a major departure from traditional Japanese design, and was the

first to incorporate features found essential in the first year of European WW II operations—armor, self-sealing fuel tanks and heavier firepower. The prototype Ki 61 first flew in December 1941. Its initial armament was a pair of 12.7mm machine guns on the nose, and two 7.9mm guns in each wing on Ki 61-1a or one 12.7mm gun in each wing on Ki 61-Ib. These more than doubled the firepower of Japanese fighters then in



service. Later versions adopted two and even four 20mm wing cannon. A few even had 30mm cannon.

The Tonys went into action in New Guinea in April 1943 and quickly became the principal Japanese Army fighter. Larger and heavier than the Japanese Navy's Mitsubishi Zeke, the Tony wasn't a dogfighter like the Zeke, but was better suited to the hitand-run techniques that the Allies had developed to combat the Zeke. In any case, the Tony was superior to the principal land-based fighters that initially opposed it: the Bell P-39 and the Curtiss P-40.

Improved versions of the Tony were developed but didn't achieve true mass production. A slightly enlarged Ki 61-II had a 1,500hp development of the Ha 40, designated "Ha 140," but this engine was plagued with problems to the point where 275 of the Ki 61-IIs were completed as "Ki 100," with 1,500hp Mitsubishi Ha 112 radial engines. Peak production of the Tony (254 a month) was achieved in July 1944.

The final operations of the Tony were against Allied aircraft that were attacking the Japanese home islands. Only Ki 61-IIs with the altitude-rated Ha 140 engine could reach, and

> This ground view of a Ki 61-I shows the widetrack landing gear and basic natural-metal finish. Various camouflage paţterns were often applied in the field.

were effective against, the operating altitude of the B-29. Others did well against carrierbased fighters and were outclassed only by the U.S. Army P-51s operating from nearby Iwo Jima.

Production of the Tony ended in January 1945, owing to Allied bombing of the airframe and engine factories. Altogether, 3,078 Tonys were built: 2,654 Ki 61-Is (per the drawing), plus 12 prototype and pre-production Ki 61-Is and 412 Ki 61-IIs.

### WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



## LOCKHEED TIDSO

HE Lockheed Hudson is an outstanding example of a successful transport planethe 1937 14-passenger Lockheed Model 14-that became an even more successful bomber. The airliner was offered with a variety of radial engines in the 750-1,100hp range, and 112 were sold. Ironically, some planes, with a manufacturing license. were sold to Japan. During the war, the Allies code-named the Japanese versions "Thelma" and the imports "Toby,"

In February 1938, aware of an upcoming visit by a British purchasing commission interested in obtaining American bombers, Lockheed rushed to produce a wooden mock-up of a Model 14 bomber fuselage. The British liked what they saw, but it didn't fully meet

**SPECIFICATIONS** 

AND PERFORMANCE

LOCKHEED HUDSON

Wing Area ...... 551 sq. ft.

Empty Weight ..... 11,630 lbs.

Gross Weight ..... 17,500 lbs.

Top Speed ... 246mph at 6,500 ft.

Cruising Speed ..... 170mph

Ceiling ...... 25,000 ft.

Range ...... 1,700 miles

their needs. They wanted a reconnaissance bomber that would have a navigator as a key crew member. He needed to be close to the pilot and have an excellent field of view. Within 24

hours, Lockheed had modified the mock-up by increasing the number of windows in its nose.

Following two months of intensive discussion about



A Lockheed Hudson I displays the early 1940 form of the British fin flash, which ran the full height of the fin.

aircraft details and equipment. the Air Ministry ordered 200 Lockheed B-14Ls under the British designation "Hudson I" (at a cost of \$25,000,000). and as many more as could be delivered by December 1939.

> The Hudson's airframe was the same as the airliner's. and it marked the first military use of the new Fowler wing flap that had been introduced on the Model 14. It extended rearward and

down, which increased wing area. An advanced feature, by U.S. military standards, was a British Boulton & Paul powered dorsal gun turret, which contained two British

.303-caliber Vickers machine auns. Two fixed .303 auns were installed in the nose, and a bomb bay for up to 1,400 pounds of bombs or depth charges was located beneath the airliner floor. The powerplant for the Hudson I was the 1,100 takeoff hp Wright GR-1820-G302A Cyclone single-row engine.

The first flight of the Hudson was on December 10, 1938, and in February the first plane was shipped to England. where armament was installed. In the absence of a British turret in the U.S., the first Hudson was tested with a wooden mock-up of the turret.

The earliest Hudsons were shipped to England from California, or flown to New York and loaded aboard ships. Later Hudsons were sent to Canada for delivery to England by air. but because of U.S. neutrality at the time, they couldn't be flown across the Canadian

border. They were flown by U.S. crews to airports right on the border, towed across the line, and flown on by Canadian crews.

Altogether, 2,940 Hudsons were built under six basic designations for British Commonwealth forces, two U.S. Army designations and one U.S. Navy designation, as follows: **BRITISH HUDSONS** 

Hudson I-The original 200 on the British direct-purchase order, plus an additional 150. all with Cyclone engines. Australia complicated the picture by ordering 50 Lockheed B-14Ss as "Hudson I" but specified the 1,100hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830-SC3G Twin Wasp, a twin-row engine. In recognition of the identity problem, a further 50 Australian Hudsons were ordered as "Hudson II," and the Australian Hudson Is were redesignated "Hudson IV."

Hudson II- Distinguishing



A Hudson V without a turret on a factory test flight in June 1941. Compare the cowling for the Pratt & Whitney engines with those of Wright-powered models in the drawing and other photos. Also note the rearward as well as the downward extension of the Fowler flaps.

row engine Hudsons were deeper cowlings fitted with cooling flaps. The Australian Mark IIs differed from the Mark Is in that they had constant-speed propellers and a strengthened airframe.

external details of these twin-

Hudson III—The 428 Hudson IIIs had the airframe and propellers of the Mark II, upgraded 1,200 takeoff hp GR-1820-G205A engines, and three additional .303-caliber machine guns (one on each side of the rear fuselage and another in a ventral station).

Hudson IIIA—The 616 Mark IIIs obtained under the Lend-Lease program were sent to England.

Hudson IVA— 52 Mark IVs supplied to Australia under Lend-Lease with the U.S. Army designation "A-28." The engines were now R-1830-45. Hudson V—The 408

Hudson Vs with Twin-Wasp engines were the last Hudsons procured on British directpurchase contracts. They had the same equipment as the Mark IIIs.

Hudson VI—Improved Mark Vs with 1,200 takeoff hp



This U.S. Navy PBO-1, formerly a Hudson IIIA, carries early 1942 Navy markings, is fitted with the British Boulton & Paul gun turret and retains its original British "Sand and Spinach" camouflage.

designated "Hudson IIIA" to reflect their closer conformity to U.S. Army specifications and equipment. Because they were procured with U.S. funds through U.S. Army channels, they were given U.S. Army designations (in this case, "A-29"). The civil Cyclone engines were redesignated as Army R-1820-87s.

Hudson IV—Redesignation of the original Australian Mark Is and Mark IIs as "Hudson IV." An additional 30 were R-1830-67 engines built by Chevrolet; 450 were procured through the U.S. Army as "A-28A."

### **U.S. HUDSONS**

Even before Lend-Lease and the assignment of U.S. designations to the Hudsons, the Army "drafted" some undelivered Hudsons from British contracts to meet its own increasing need for new aircraft. Most of these were used in unarmed transport and training roles. Because they didn't meet U.S. Army specifications at the time, they operated as "Lockheed Model 414" under their original British serial numbers, and they often used British insignia. Under Lend-Lease, new Army specifications were written to fit the existing airplanes so that they could be given the standard Army designations A-28 and A-29.

**A-28**—Lend-Lease designation for the Hudson IVA. Many were retained by the U.S. Army for use as bombertrainers.

A-28A—Improved Mark Vs delivered as "Hudson VI."

**A-29**—Eight hundred Mark IIIAs built under Lend-Lease. Late in 1941, some were taken from the British order, armed and used to patrol the U.S. coastline. With no British turrets available, the armed A-29s were fitted with a single, hand-swung, .50-caliber machine gun in an open cockpit that replaced the turret.



A U.S. Army AT-18 gunnery trainer with a molded Plexiglas Martin gun turret. The rubber de-icer boots on the wings and tail are prominent on this unpainted airplane.

**A-29A**—The 184 A-29As were A-29s with cabins modified for alternative use as unarmed troop transports.

**A-29B**—Twenty-four A-29s that were modified for use as photo-survey planes.

**AT-18**—The only Hudsons built from scratch for the U.S. Army were the AT-18 Advanced Trainers. The 217 AT-18s were gunnery trainers fitted with American Martin turrets that used .50-caliber Browning machine guns. The engines were R-1820-87s.

**AT-18A**—The 83 unarmed AT-18As were navigation trainers (with the cabins arranged for trainee navigators and their instructors).

**PB0-1**—The U.S. Navy acquired 20 Hudson IIIAs with British turrets late in 1941 and designated them "PB0-1" ("PB" for "Patrol Bomber" and "O" for "Lockheed"). Engines were Navy (even dash number) R-1820-40s. Equipped with four 325-pound depth bombs, one PB0-1 sank a German U-boat on March 1, 1942, and another sank one on March 15. These were the first U.S. aircraft sinkings of U-boats.

Over the entire Hudson series, gross weight varied from 17,500 pounds (I) to 22,360 pounds (AT-18A); top speeds varied from 246 (I) to 261 (AT-18A).



W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



## MARTIN PBM MARINER

OUNDED in 1918, the Glenn L. Martin Company was one of the oldest American aircraft manufacturers. Martin was a major builder of flying boats, beginning in 1930 with the Navydesigned PM-1 and P3M-1 models built in its new plant in Baltimore, MD. The most famous Martin flying boat of original design was the fourengine "China Clipper" (Model 130), that opened trans-Pacific mail and passenger routes in 1935.

In June 1937, Martin was awarded a U.S. Navy contract for a single twin-engine flying boat: the Martin Model 162, designated "XPBM-1." It was intended as a follow-up and possible replacement for the Consolidated PBY model that was then in production. While the XPBM-1 had double the gross weight, and a wing that was only 14 feet longer than the PBY's, it had more powerful 1,600hp Wright R-2600-6 engines. In a very unusual move, Martin built a manned, guarter-scale flying model (Model 162A) for aerodynamic testing of the unique gull-wing design. The first flight of the XPBM-1 was on February 18. 1939.

The notable features of the XPBM-1 were its gulled wing; a powered nose turret with a single gun; a two-gun, powered dorsal turret just aft of the wing; a single gun in the tail cone; and single guns in hemispherical, hand-swung blister turrets on each side of the hull aft of the wing. Twin fins and rudders were at the ends of a straight, horizontal stabilizer, and the wing-tip floats retracted inward to lay flush against the underside of the wing. Up to 2,000 pounds of bombs or depth charges could be carried. duce one acute and one obtuse angle of intersection.

The single XPBM-2, ordered at the same time, was similar to the PBM-1, except that it had increased fuel capacity and was stressed for catapult landing. Production PBM-1s guns then fired through flat panels that opened when required. The most notable outward change was the replacement of the retractable wing floats with the fixed type on five long struts. **PBM-3 Variants** 



The Martin PBM-3D Mariner with late 1943 color and markings. Note the two-gun nose and tail turrets, the large radome on top of the hull and flush panels enclosing the side guns.

In a rare move of its own. the Navy ordered 20 production PBM-1s in December 1937, 14 months before the prototype flew. They were outwardly identical to the XPBM-1 except for the dihedral in the horizontal tail. An odd feature here was that the fins and rudders, instead of being vertical, were mounted perpendicular to the stabilizer. Wind-tunnel tests had revealed that there was less aerodynamic drag from a right-angle intersection between the fins and rudders and the stabilizer than when the fins were vertical to probegan to reach the fleet in September 1940 and were given the name "Mariner" in October 1941.

**PBM-3**—True mass production of the Mariner began with the PBM-3, 379 of which were ordered in November 1940. They had 1,700hp R-2600-12 engines in lengthened nacelles that contained completely enclosed bomb bays. Armament was two .50caliber guns in the nose turret and one each in the dorsal, tail and side positions. The side blister turrets of the PBM-1 were eliminated and the side **PBM-3B**—Šix PBM-3B were supplied to the R.A.F. as "Mariner I," but they didn't measure up to British requirements and were returned to the U.S. Navy.

**PBM-3C**—The 274 PBM-3Cs had increased protective armor and could carry up to 4,000 pounds of bombs. Some were fitted with a large radome for search radar on top of the hull between the cockpit and the wing.

**PBM-3D**—Greater changes came with the 201 PBM-3Ds. They had 1,900hp R-2600-22 engines driving four-blade



This PBM-3 with prewar silver coloring was photographed in late 1942 or early 1943. Note the unpowered tail machine-gun turret and flush panels for side gun stations. The red bands on the wings and hull (later changed to green) identify an instrument trainer.

propellers; twin guns in the nose; dorsal and tail turrets; and single side guns. Bomb capacity was now 8,000 pounds, and some Ds had the large radome that was introduced on the PBM-3C.

PBM-3R-The 20 PBM-3Rs were unarmed transports with seating for 20 passengers and a reinforced cabin floor for heavy cargo.

PBM-3S-The 156 PBM-3Ss were specialized antisubmarine versions that carried four 325-pound depth bombs, extra fuel, and only four guns.

PBM-4-There were to have been 180 PBM-4s

(essentially PBM-3s upgraded to use new, four-row 23,000hp Wright R-3350-8 engines). They weren't produced because the PBM-5 was built instead.

PBM-5-The 631 PBM-5s were outwardly similar to the PBM-3D, but they used 2,100hp Pratt & Whitney R-2800-22 or -34 engines. Six were converted to PBM-5A amphibians, and one was completed as the single-tail XP5M-1, of which 239 P5M-1 and -2 models were built after the war.

**PBM-5 Variants** PBM-5E—PBM-5s fitted with search radar were techni-



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.

cally designated "PBM-5E," but because the use of special-mission suffix letters was just beginning, the designation was seldom used in airplane paperwork or by the crews.

PBM-5G-During the war, several PBM-5s were transferred to the

U.S. Coast Guard without a change of designation. After the war, these and other Navy transfers acquired the suffix letter "G" (as "PBM-5G"), which identified modifications made for specialized Coast

Guard missions, most notably air-sea rescue. PBM-5A-

The final production model of the Mariner was the PBM-5A amphibian, with 36 built to complete the production of 1.366 Mariners by March 1949. The last Mariners were withdrawn from squadron use in July 1956.

It's odd that the amphibious version of the Mariner appeared so late in its career. If the feature had been added earlier, it might have added greatly to the airplane's utility



The first and the last: the XPBM-1 in its original form with a straight, horizontal tail and side gun blisters, and the PBM-5A amphibian that ended the Mariner line in 1949. The red bars were added to the insignia in January 1947.

(as it had done with the PBY) and given the Mariner a

greater role in WW II naval aviation.





WW





### W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

## MARTIN B-26 MARAUDER

N addition to its impressive record as a warplane, the Martin B-26 Marauder should be considered an historic U.S. Army design for another reason: it was the first warplane ever to be ordered into mass production "right off the drawing board" without having a prototype tested first. In January 1939, the U.S. Army, foreseeing an immediate need for new, high-performance airplanes, asked for proposals from the aircraft industry for a new medium bomber that would have an unprecedented high speed for the industry and carry five crew men, four .30-caliber machine guns and 2,000 pounds of bombs. By omitting requirements for lowspeed handling characteristics, the Army implied that it was willing to accept a "hot" airplane to get the desired topend performance. The Glenn L. Martin Co. submitted its paper Model 179 on July 5. 1939. After evaluating it

against other proposals, the Army awarded Martin a contract for 201 production bombers and designated them "B-26."

B-26-First flown on November 25, 1940, the new B-26 was powered with 1,850hp Pratt & Whitney R-2800-5 engines. Its initial armament was a single flexible, .30-caliber machine gun in the nose and another in a manned tail position, and two .50-caliber guns in a powered. Martin-designed dorsal turret-the first such device to be installed in a U.S. bomber. The B-26 was also the first U.S. warplane to have been designed from the start with self-sealing fuel tanks. The bomb load was 4,800 pounds.

A wingspan of only 65 feet with an area of 602 square feet combined with the 32,000-pound gross weight to create the highest wing loading ever used on an Army airplane to that time. This horrified the pilots—and time was to justify their fears. The early models used for crew training soon earned the nickname "Widow Maker," and they almost lived up to the derisive reference "One a Day in Tampa Bay" at a Florida training center.

Later models had more span and area, but the wing loading didn't decrease, because the gross weight was increased. The early "Short Wing" B-26s were the fastest of all, with top speeds of 317mph at 15,000 feet. **B-26A**—The B-26s were This early B-26 shows the initial installation of a .30-caliber tail machine gun. The photo was taken late in 1941, before the U.S. Army serial number was added to the vertical tail.

followed by 139 B-26As with minor refinements and a fuselage that was lengthened by 2 feet, 3 inches. All four guns were now .50 caliber, and provision was made for carrying naval torpedoes and bombs.

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**B-26B**—There were 1,883 B-26Bs, but a major change was made with the B-26B-10 that tamed it, and almost made it a different airplane. The wingspan was increased

**Note:** While Bill Wylam's drawing is titled "B-26D," the airplane shown is actually representative of late B-26B models. Although detailed photos were released to the public during the war, accurate designations weren't given. For security reasons, all information relative to the B-26 was given under the designation "Marauder," without reference to the particular stage of model development. This was a major reason for the use of "popular" names for U.S. military airplanes. Mr. Wylam made as close a guess as he could for the designation based on the information that was available to him.



A B-26F-1-MA in the natural metal finish adopted for most U.S. Army combat planes early in 1944. Note the external "package guns" on the lower fuselage.

by 6 feet to make it 71 feet; the wing area increased to 659 square feet; and the height of the vertical tail was increased. Other changes common to all B-26Bs were a 24-volt (rather than a 12-volt) electrical system, 2,000hp R-2800-41 engines and increased protective armor.

For defense, the single hand-swung tail gun was replaced with two .50 calibers in a ball turret, and two .50 calibers were mounted in the lower waist. The drawing shows these in socket fittings ahead of the "openable" panel. but they fire through the panels (as shown in the photo). For ground attack, a fixed, .50-caliber gun was installed inside the nose, and four others were added as "package guns" on the outside of the fuselage.

The normal gross weight of the B-26B increased to only 34,000 pounds, but the bomb load was reduced to 3,000 pounds. Overloads were common, however, and with a 5,200-pound bomb load, the gross weight rose to 36,500 pounds.

The tail number on the Wylam drawing is accurate for a B-26B-25-MA ("MA" identifies the main Martin plant in Baltimore).

**B-26C**—The 1,235 B-26Cs were similar to the B-26Bs except that they were built in a

new Martin plant in Omaha, NE, where slightly different manufacturing methods were used. The designation became "B-26-MO." Gross weight increased to 38,200 pounds; the top speed dropped to 282mph.

B-26D and E—These two production B-26Bs were modified for experimental projects. B-26F—The 300 B-26F-

MAs were similar to the B and

C models except that the angle of incidence of the wing was increased 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> degrees to further improve the takeoff and landing characteristics.

**B-26G**—The 893 B-26G-MAs were similar to the F model except that they had only 11 .50-caliber machine guns. A further 57 were built as unarmed crew trainers, and were designated "TB-26G."



This close-up flight view of the B-26B-30-MA shows the ball tail turret, waist gun ports with the guns extended, and the double-hinged doors of a bomb bay containing 500-pound bombs.

### **REDESIGNATED B-26s**

Some production Marauders were modified for use as crew trainers and redesignated: 208 former B-26Bs became "AT-23A Advanced Trainers," while 350 B-26Cs became "AT-23B." These were soon redesignated "TB-26B" and "C" after 203 of the AT-23Bs were transferred to the Navy as unarmed JM-1s ("J" for "Utility," "M" for "Martin"). The Navy also received 47 of the TB-26Gs as JM-2. The JMs were used primarily as tow-target tugs. **ROYAL AIR FORCE** 

## MARAUDERS

The R.A.F. received 544 B-26s under Lend-Lease as follows: 52 B-26As as Marauder I; a further 19 B-26As as Marauder IA; 123 B-26Cs as Marauder II; and a combination of 350 B-26Fs and Gs as Marauder III.

### MARAUDERS IN ACTION

The first few B-26s were retained for testing, but the squadrons began to get B-26s in the spring of 1941. They served in every theater of U.S. Army Air Force operations, starting in New Guinea in April 1942, where the distance between targets and U.S. bases required a reduction of the bomb load because of the extra fuel tanks that were carried in the bomb bays. B-26As were used as torpedo planes in the Battle of Midway in June 1942.





## MESSERSCHMITT ME 109



An Me 109B-2 in 1938 camouflage and markings. Note the white circle around the swastikas, the narrow white borders for all crosses, and the wing crosses close to the wing tips.

The Me 109 was one of the world's great fighter planes and it enjoyed the distinction of having been built in greater numbers than any other—some 33,000 were built. It was mass-produced in Germany from 1936 through 1945 and it was built in other countries after the war, serving in Spain until 1967.

The Me 109 was designed in 1934 in a four-way design competition for a modern fighter to be used by the brand-new Luftwaffe. Although it was designed to use the new 610hp Junkers Jumo

Note: The "Me 109J" designation that's used on the Wylam drawing never officially existed. It was an in-house designation used by Messerschmitt for some Me 109G models that were being built for Spain late in the war. The drawing shows the configuration of the prewar Me 109B through D models fitted with the three-blade propeller of the Me 109E. The markings are for early Me 109Bs as seen in 1938. The "J" was just a guess on Mr. Wylam's part, as accurate designations for many German aircraft weren't readily available to the Allies in 1940, when the drawing was made.

Also, note that the abbreviations "Bf" and "Me" are both used in reference to the Messerschmitt airplanes. Although the planes were designed by Willi Messerschmitt and were referred to as such, they were the product of the Bayersche Flugzeug Werke (Bavarian Airplane Works) of Augsburg and were officially designated "Bf." The name of the firm was changed to Messerschmitt in July 1938, so "Me" became the official abbreviation, but "Bf" also remained in use almost until the war's end. Because "Me" is the most commonly used term today, it's used here even for the early, "true" Bf models. inverted V-12 engine, the Me 109V-1 prototype had to use an upright 625hp British Rolls-Royce Kestrel engine when it flew in September 1935. While it differed little in outline from the new monoplane fighters that were being developed in other countries, the Me 109 was almost revolutionary in its use of a greatly simplified, all-metal structure for mass production and ease of maintenance in the field.

The design was also suitable for "stretch"—the use of higher power, heavier armament and other state-of-theart changes that kept it competitive with later Allied fighters until the war's end. About the only serious deficiency of the Me 109 was the design of the landing gear. The gear was on a narrow track and the wheels weren't 90 degrees to the ground. This often gave the pilots serious problems when they landed. **PROTOTYPES** 

Three Me 109 prototypes were ordered in 1934 and designated "Me 109V-1" through "V-3" ("Versuchs," or "Experimental"). These were followed by 10 more prototypes mixed with pre-production Me 109B models. Designated V models continued to appear until late in the war (reaching V-55). Most of these were adapted from production models rather than built from scratch as experimental models.

Me 109B-This was the first production model because there was no Me 109A as such. It used the 635hp Jumo 210 engine and drove a fixed-pitch wooden propeller, which was later replaced by a two-blade metal controllablepitch type. Its initial armament was a pair of 7.9mm machine guns that fired through the propeller, with a third gun that fired through the hollow propeller shaft. Early combat experience was gained by 45 109Bs that were sent to the German Condor Legion, which was fighting in the Spanish Civil War. The Me 109B's gross weight was 4,740 pounds and its top speed was 289mph at 13,120 feet (4.000 meters).

**Me 109C**—This model was outwardly similar to the B, but it had an improved Jumo 210C engine and two additional guns in the wings. Some Cs were used to test a 20mm cannon that fired through the propeller shaft, but this wasn't



yet standard equipment.

*Me 109D*—The Me 109D, which kept the Jumo engine and two-blade propeller, was the first true mass-produced model, with several hundred built. Although it rapidly became obsolete, some D models saw action during the German invasion of Poland in September 1939. They were then "retired" to fighter-pilot schools.

Me 109E-A major change came with the Me 109E, which used the 960hp Daimler-Benz DB 600 engine, (an inverted V-12 like the Jumo) but had a three-blade propeller and a notably different radiator arrangement under the nose. Production Es with 1,100hp DB 600A engines entered service with the Luftwaffe early in 1939. A great variety of armament was incorporated in the E over its production life, and the nose-mounted cannon was standard equipment. Some other Es had cannon installed in the wings. Provision was also made for the installation of racks under the wings for bombs, and either a 300-liter drop tank or a 550pound bomb could be carried under the fuselage.

In combat, the Me 109E was slightly superior to the British Hurricane I and far better than the Curtiss Kittyhawk. It was about even in performance with the early British Spitfires.

*Me 109F*—Major changes in appearance came in late 1940 with the Me 109F. Most notable were a greatly enAn Me 109E-4/B, in 1940 coloring, carrying a 550-pound bomb. Note the wide white borders on the fuselage and the underwing crosses, and the wing crosses now located farther from the wing tip.



The major change in the appearance of the Me 109F resulted from the larger propeller spinner and round wing tips. Shown here is an early Me 109F-0.



The Me 109G was outwardly similar to the F model, except for the bulges for larger nose-gun ammunition drums located ahead of the cockpit (which started with the G-3). Shown here is an ME 109G-10/R1.

larged, nearly hemispherical propeller spinner, rounded (instead of squared) wing tips, and a horizontal cantilever tail that eliminated the bracing struts. From the F-3 model on, the engine used was the 1,350hp DB 601E. Its gross weight was 6,063 pounds and its high speed was 391mph at 19,680 feet (6,000 meters). **Me 109G**—The Me 109G of 1942 was the most-produced model. Some featured cockpit pressurization (a new feature for fighters at the time), and from the G-3 on, the nose guns were 13mm. The larger ammunition drums required for these guns caused conspicuous bulges on each side of the fuselage ahead of the cockpit. Again, wing armament varied between cannons, extra machine guns and rockets. Its gross weight was 6,945 pounds; the high speed was 387mph at 22,967 feet (7,000 meters).

**Me 109H**, **J**—A small series of Me 109H prototypes (which were intended to be high-performance fighters) was started, using F-4 airframes for prototypes and G-5s for early production models. Only a few were delivered before the program was cancelled. The "J" designation was used by Messerschmitt as its own designation for 25 G airframes that were shipped to Spain without engines.

*Me 109K*—The final production model, which was similar to the late 109G, appeared late in 1944. The Me 109K used the 1,500hp DB 605L engine with a two-stage supercharger that could deliver up to 2,000hp for short dashes.

Its gross weight was 7,400 pounds, and its high speed was 452mph at 19,606 feet. These were figures that emphasized the ability of the 1934 design to grow and remain competitive with later fighter designs.

## POSTWAR PRODUCTION

The Avia plant in Czechoslovakia had been building Me 109Gs, and after the war, it continued to build them for the new Czech Air Force, using both DB 605 and Jumo engines. Spain also built Me 109Gs after the war, using Hispano-Suiza engines, which were later replaced by British Rolls-Royce Merlins.





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SCALE AIRCRAFT

## MESSERSCHMITT ME 262 SWALLOW



An Me 262A-1a tested in the U.S. after the war. The original German fuselage markings had been painted out, but erroneous crosses in WW I style were painted on later for publicity purposes.

HE German Messerschmitt Me 262 has the distinction of being the first turbojet airplane to see combat. It wasn't the first fighter without propellers to do so, however, That honor went to the Messerschmitt Me 162 Komet. which was powered by a liquid-fuel rocket engine and went into action on August 14. 1944. Although the Me 262 didn't go to war until October 3, 1944, its impact on aircraft design was great. Rocket propulsion wasn't adopted for

subsequent fighters, but all of today's fighters are powered by turbojets.

It was fortunate for Allied air power that deployment of the Me 262 was held up, first by delays in jet-engine development and then by official indecision as to how it should be used. The initial planning for its use as a fighter was faulty, and then Adolph Hitler ordered that it be produced as a bomber rather than a fighter.

In 1938, the German Air Ministry encouraged the de-



Me 262A-1as in Germany. Note that the tail swastika is black with a white border, but that the fuselage cross consists only of a white outline over the fuselage camouflage pattern.

velopment of jet and rocket powerplants for military aircraft. As a result, the newly named Messerschmitt A.G. ("A.G." for "Aktien Geselleschaft," or Proprietary Company) was invited to design a jet-powered fighter. Messerschmitt's preliminary design study received the Ministry's Project No. P.1065. which appeared as a wooden mock-up in March 1940. Approval of this resulted in an order for three all-metal prototypes, designated "Me 262." The new fighter eventually received the name "Schwalbe" (Swallow).

As a fighter airframe, the Me 262 was a relatively conventional design, but it featured a slightly swept-back wing to reduce compressibility at high speeds. Two axial-flow turbojet engines were installed in nacelles on the underside of the wing, outboard of the inward-retracting landing gear. A detail new to fighters at the time, but soon to be widely adopted, was the use of a cockpit canopy that was entirely above the fuselage, not faired into it as on the Me 109 and its contemporaries.

The first four Me 262s (Me 262V-1 through V-4) featured conventional tail-wheel landing gear. This was quickly changed to the tricycle type. and for good reason. The jet blast hit the pavement, damaging it, and also bounced upward to scorch the tail surfaces while further damaging them with blown-up debris. Significantly, all subsequent jet airplanes used tricycle landing gear with their jets parallel to the ground (notable exceptions are latter-day vertical takeoff types such as the British Harrier).

Airframe development got far ahead of jet-engine development, so the Me 262V-1 was hurriedly fitted with a



1,200hp Junkers Jumo piston engine in a modified nose. It made its first flight on April 18, 1941. Later attempts to fly it and other prototypes with early developmental jets failed because the engines weren't delivering sufficient thrust (1 pound of thrust equals 1hp at approximately 375mph; 1 pound of thrust equals more than 1hp above that speed and less below it).

Finally, powered by two 1,848-pound-thrust (static) Junkers 109-004A engines. the first all-jet Me 262 flight was made by the V-3 on July 18, 1941. Orders were then placed for production Me 262A-0 and -1 fighters, but for a while, it looked like they wouldn't be delivered as such. Hitler saw a demonstration flight of the Me 262V-6 in November 1943 and, impressed by its speed, decided that it was just the thing for hit-andrun bombing raids on England. He ordered that the new jets be built as bombers instead of fighters. A redesign program got under way, and the Me 262A-2 version could carry two 500kg (1,100pound) bombs under the fuselage. The bomber version was named "Sturmvogel" (Storm Bird). Reason prevailed in the Air Ministry, however, and Hitler was persuaded to allow simultaneous production of both the Me 262 bomber and the fighter. The fighter was usually fitted with four 30mm cannon in the nose, but other armament arrangements were also used.

By April 1944, 12 prototypes and 10 Me-262A-0 preproduction models had been built. Initial production models went to fighter-pilot schools, not to the front, because considerable training was needed for experienced fighter pilots during their transition to the new jets. The first Me 262 combat mission against U.S. daylight bomber formations was on October 3, 1944. The performance of the Me

262 handed the Allies a nasty surprise: it was

more than 80mph faster than the best Allied fighters of the time. Its speed was an asset in hit-and-run attacks on the bomber streams and allowed it to avoid mixing with the defending fighters. The powered gun turrets of the bombers couldn't follow the Me 262's high-speed passes. Most of the Me 262s that were shot down were victims either of their own pilots' errors or of slowing down for more careful aim or for landing. Some Me 262s were designed with a single 50mm (2-inch) cannon in the nose to permit the Me 262s to attack the bombers while safely out of range of their .50-caliber guns. This version, however, was never produced.

The increasing need for night fighters resulted in the installation of specialized night-fighting radar into some single-seat Me-262A-1s, complete with an impressive array of antennas on the nose. Twoseat Me 262Bs were devel-

oped specifically as night fighters. Altogether,

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

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A two-seat Me 262B-1a/U1 night fighter tested in the U.S. after the war. Note the nose radar antennas and the auxiliary fuel tanks where bombs were carried on the bomber versions.

1,430 Me 262s were built out of thousands ordered, and then they were a classic example of too little, too late. Had they been available a year and half earlier (before longrange fighters began to accompany the bombers), the outcome of the Allied strategic bombing program might have been different.

\* \*

Note: The designations "FE" and "T2" on the rear fuselages of German aircraft photographed in the U.S. during and after the war aren't original German markings. "FE" means "Foreign Equipment," and "T2" is the number of the particular Technical Intelligence office that tested the aircraft.





ME 262 SWALL MESSERSCHIV





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SCALE

AIRCRAFT

DRAWINGS

## MITSUBISHI A6M ZERO



A restored Mitsubishi A6M-5C Zeke 52. Its markings are more accurate than on most restorations, but the rear fuselage doesn't match the drawing.

T HE Mitsubishi A6M, called "Zero", "Zeke" and "Hamp" by the Allies, was one of the major technological surprises sprung by the Japanese in WW II. Because they had long been contemptuously regarded as being capable only of copying foreign airplane designs, their highly original, carrier-based fighter was startling.

The designation "Zero" came from the Japanese Navy practice of designating airplane types by the last two digits of the Japanese Dynastic calendar. The Japanese year 2600 matched our calendar year 1940, so "00," was shortened to "Type 0" for the A6M, which was named "Raiden." The naval model designation of "A6M" reflected the sixth A-model built by Mitsubishi (M). The sub-designation for the A6M-1 was Model 11, while the A6M-2 became Model 21, and the A6M-3 became Model 32, etc. The Allies also referred to it broadly as "The Zero," but when code names were applied to Japanese military aircraft, the standard models were called "Zeke," and the short-wing Model 32 was called "Hamp."

The prototype, which was powered by a 780hp Mitsubishi Zuisei engine, flew April 1, 1939, and was quickly ordered into production as Type 0 fighter Model 11. It entered combat in China in July 1940. Allied Intelligence reported on its capabilities, but the warnings were disregarded, which caused later regrets.

For two years, the Zero was superior to any plane it fought. It was fast and highly maneuverable and, thanks to its auxiliary fuel tanks, it had long



No, the Luftwaffe didn't use Zeroes. This A6M-2 Zeke 21, photographed in China just after the war, carries the green cross on a white marking used by some of the Japanese airplanes that were allowed to continue flying during the surrender negotiations. Note that a souvenir hunter has cut the unit marking off the rudder.

range. Its shortcomings included a lack of armor protection for the pilot, a light structure and fuel tanks that weren't self-sealing. The Zero was also highly vulnerable to the .50-caliber guns of U.S. fighters—when they were able to hit it.

Its initial armament was two 7.7mm machine guns in the nose and two 20mm cannon in the wings. Armament varied during production to a maximum of a single 13.2mm gun in the nose, two more in the wings, plus the two cannon. Its bomb load ranged from two 132-pound bombs to a single 1,102-pounder, or up to eight 22-pounders. Late -6 and -8 versions could also be fitted with rockets.

Although it was obsolete by mid-1943, when new Allied fighters opposed it, the Zero remained in production until the end of the war, with 3,879 built by Mitsubishi and 6,570 built under license by Nakajima, for a total of 10,449.

Most Zeroes—Models 11, 21, 52 and 64 (AM6-1, -2, -5 and -8)—had wingspans of 12 meters (39 feet, 4 inches), but Model 32 (A6M-3) had its span shortened by 1 meter to 36 feet. Other data for Zero Model 52 (A6M-5): powerplant: 1,130hp Nakajima Sakae 21; wing area: 229.27 square feet; empty weight: 4,136 pounds; gross weight: 6,025 pounds; high speed: 351mph at 19,685 feet.

### WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



<u>MITSUBISHI A6M ZER</u>

## MITSUBISHI G4M BETTY



This view of the Mitsubishi G4M-2 Betty bomber shows the powered upper turret and four-blade propellers added to this model. The color is dark green on the upper surfaces and silvery gray underneath.

HE Japanese Naval Air Arm was unusual in that it made extensive use of landbased bombers, and used them for long overland flights deep into enemy territory in what would usually be considered an Army-type operation.

The Mitsubishi G4M, codenamed "Betty" by the Allies but not officially named in Japan, did acquire the unofficial nickname of "Hamaki," or "Cigar," in an obvious reference to the shape of its fuselage. The G4M prototype flew in September 1939, but its production was delayed in favor of the G6M-1, which had the same airframe but was equipped as a long-range escort fighter. This was necessary for raids deep into China. because Japan had no conventional fighters that were capable of escorting the

bombers then in use for the full distance. The G6M-1 concept didn't work out, so the 30 planes that were built in 1940 were converted to trainers and transports.

Production Bettys, which were designated Navy Type 1 Attack Bomber Model 11 (G4M-1), were first delivered in April 1941. Its initial powerplants (contrary to the drawing) were 1,530hp Mitsubishi MK4A Kasei 11 engines; the bomb load was 1,764 pounds or one standard naval torpedo; defensive armament was four 7.7mm machine guns-one in the nose, one in a topside blister, one each in side blisters, and a 20mm cannon in the tail turret. The G4M-1's range was 3,256 nautical miles (3,749 statute miles), and its top speed was 266mph at



This view of the G4M-2 Betty bomber shows the flush hatches that replaced side machine gun blisters, and the tail turret redesigned with two vertically aligned transparent clam shells that opened to permit movement of the 20mm саппоп.

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The G4M-1s enjoyed great success on raids into China as far inland as Chungking, and their lack of armor and heavy

### SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE G4M-2 Wingspan ...... 82 ft., 1/4 in. Length ...... 65 ft., 7 in. nese fighter Wing Area 840.9 sg ft resistance. It

ming mou	
Empty Weight	17,199 lbs.
Gross Weight	27,588 lbs.
High Speed	
	at 15,090 ft.
Range	5 statute miles

second-rate but determined fighters that the U.S. and British defenses first put up against it.

Improvements were made on the G4M-2 Model 22. The top blister was replaced with a powered turret that contained a 20mm cannon. The nose guns were doubled, the side blisters were removed and replaced with flat hatches (still containing 7.7mm guns), and a revised tail turret retained its 20mm cannon. Bomb load 104

increased to 2,205 pounds, and power was increased to 1,800hp (takeoff), with Kasei 21 MK4P engines driving fourblade propellers (the G4M-1 had three-bladers). A new wing with laminar airfoil was used; gross weight increased to 27,588 pounds, but high speed increased to only 272mph at 15,090 feet. The final production version of the Betty was the G4M-3, which had a redesigned tail turret and dihedral in the horizontal tail.

Bettys were in production

until the war's end, and they operated everywhere there were targets for land-based bombers (either land targets or ships at sea). An unusual conversion was made on the G4M-2e. which had its bomb bay

modified to carry the MXY-7 Ohka ("Cherry Blossom," but called "Baka," or "Fool," by the Allies) single-seat suicide bomber. Carrying the Ohka greatly reduced the performance of the Betty, and made it an easy target for U.S. and British fighters. Sixteen were shot down during a single attack.

Altogether, 1,200 G4M-1s. 1.154 G4M-2s and 60 G4M-3s were built.



# NAKAJIMA KI-84 FRANK



A Nakajima Ki-84 "Frank" of the 11th Sentai (group), captured in the Philippines. Note the lightning-flash Sentai marking on the tail and the plane's well-worn appearance. The numeral "46" on the rudder is an allied inventory number for captured airplanes.

HE best all-around Japanese fighter developed in response to the new U.S. models was the Nakajima Ki-84 Hayate ("Gale"). It was code named "Frank" by the Allies, but its official designation was Type 4 (for the Japanese year 2604) Model 1A Fighter. It was designed and built by the Nakajima Aeroplane Company, Ltd.; the prototype flew in April 1943.

The engine was a 1.800hp Nakajima Ha-45 Type 11, and the airplane's lines were similar to Nakajima's Ki-43 "Oscar" and Ki-44 "Tojo".

The prototype had provision for a single drop-tank under the fuselage, but the production models could carry two 44-gallon tanks, or up to two 550-pound bombs under the wings. Its initial armament was a pair of 12.7mm machine guns in the nose and two 20mm cannon in the wings. The Ki-84 was up-todate in its use of heavy armor and protection for the fuel tanks, and it featured special "Butterfly Flaps" that could be lowered to improve maneuverability in combat.

The Ki-84 wasn't quite as



A wooden-fuselage Nakajima Ki-84-II on display at Wright Field after the war. The coloring is standard U.S. Army olive drab and gray. Unbordered and undersized Hinomaru markings have been re-applied for display purposes.

fast as the latest U.S. P-51s and P-47s, but it could outmaneuver and out-climb them. "Franks" first went into combat against the U.S. 14th Air Force (the former Flying Tigers), in China in March 1944. Soon after, 10 three-squadron

fighter groups that were equipped with Franks were stationed in the Philippines to resist the impending Allied invasion. The Franks didn't live up to their potential there, because they were badly outnumbered, and also because they suffered from fuel and hydraulic-system malfunctions and the failure of less-thanstandard landing gear.

**SPECIFICATIONS** 

KI-84-IA

AND PERFORMANCE

Length ...... 32 ft., 6 9/16 in.

Wing Area ...... 226.04 sq. ft.

Empty Weight ..... 5,864 lbs.

Improved versions of the Ki-84 guickly followed the Ki-84-la. The Ki-84-lb eliminated the two machine guns and used four cannon. The few Ki-84-lcs (specialized bomber interceptors) had two 20mm cannon and two 30mm cannon.

Because of the serious shortage of aluminum in Japan, wood was substituted for many parts of the Ki-84. The resulting composite model had a 1,990hp Ha-45 Type 23 engine and was designated the "Ki-84-II." Production was also seriously hampered by the B-29 raids on Japan, and an engine shortage

after the engine factory was bombed. As in Germany, much of Nakajima's fighter production was forced into underground factories. Altogether. 3,509 Ki-84s

were built (contrary to the drawing)-127 prototypes, service test and pre-production models: and 3.382 production Ki-84-Is and -IIs by Nakajima and the Mansyu Aeroplane Manufacturing Co. in Manchuria. The drawing total includes derivative designs with other designations. such as the Ki-87 variant with a turbo-supercharger and the lightweight Ki-116.

### WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



AJIVILA

## NORTH AMERICAN P-51B MUSTANG



A camoutlaged P-51B-5-NA Mustang, photographed with the Ninth Air Force in England. The letters "AX" identify the 12th Squadron of the 67th Reconnaissance Group, identified by the letter "M."

N 1940, the British Purchasing Commission (in the U.S.) wanted North American (NAA) of Inglewood, CA, to build the Curtiss P-40 under license. NAA engineers had been researching a new fighter design that would overcome some of the notorious deficiencies of the designs used early in the war. The design would also incorporate a new aerodynamic feature: the laminar-flow wing.

In 120 days, NAA built a prototype that used the same 1,100hp Allison V-1710-F3R engine then being used in the P-40. The first flight of the NA-73 (the company-funded prototype with civil registration NX19998) was made on October 25, 1940. Production models with British-specified armament of six .303-caliber guns were flying in May 1941. NAA had originally called it the "Apache," but this was soon changed to "Mustang." The initial British contract was for 320 Mustang Is, and this was soon increased by another 300. Some of these were acquired by the U.S. Army, but they weren't yet called P-51s.

The U.S. Army wasn't particularly interested in the new design, but it did direct that the fourth and tenth production Mustang Is be tested by the Army as "XP-51." Despite good maneuverability and high speed, the Army still wasn't interested in production. The 150 supplied to Britain as "Mustang IA" under Lend-Lease with four 20mm cannon were designated "P-51" though their armament and other details differed from the XP-51s. These carried both U.S. Army and British serial numbers.

The first Army order to NAA was for 500 examples of an odd type—a single-seat divebomber variant designated "A-36A." This had dive brakes, racks for two 500-pound bombs and an armament of six .50-caliber machine guns (four in the wings and two in the lower nose). The engine was the 1,325hp V-1710-87.

The A-36A first flew on September 21, 1942, and pro-

duction models took part in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily. The dive-bombing tactic, however, was soon abandoned, and the dive brakes were wired shut.

The first Army fighter order was for 310 P-51As with 1,200hp V-1710-81 engines. Armament

**SPECIFICATIONS** 

P-51 B

AND PERFORMANCE

Wing Area ...... 237.7 sq. ft.

Empty Weight ..... 17,199 lbs.

Gross Weight ..... 11,000 lbs.

High Speed ...... 440mph

Armament ...... Four .50-caliber

guns, plus two 1,000-lb. bombs

at 30.000 ft.

was four .50caliber guns in the wings. Britain obtained 50 P-51As under Lend-Lease as "Mustang II." At this time, the Army didn't send P-51As overseas for

combat. The Mustang's

only serious shortcoming was its lack of performance at altitude, which was attributable to the Allison engine. The British were sufficiently concerned about this to upgrade four Mustangs with Rolls-Royce Merlin engines. The performance gain was impressive, and the U.S. Army and NAA were encouraged to try Merlins in P-51s on their own. Two four-cannon P-51s were fitted with 1,380hp Packardbuilt V-1650-3 Merlins... and the rest is history.

Production orders followed for 1,998 P-51B-NAs at Inglewood and 1,750 similar P-51C-NTs from a new factory in Dallas, TX. Armament was the same as in the P-51A. The P-51Bs and Cs through B-10 and C-3 had 1,380hp V-1650-3 engines, while higher dash numbers of each had 1,490hp V-1650-7 engines.

The British designated their 275 P-51Bs "Mustang III," but they made no distinction for 636 P-51Cs, which carried the

same name. There were also cameracarrying versions of the P-51. Such P-51s were designated "F-6A": P-51As became "F-6B"; and both P-51Bs and Cs became "F-6C."

Because the

Wylam drawing shows the P-51B with high turtle deck, the later bubble-canopy variants (P-51D through P-51K) won't be detailed here, but the British called them all "Mustang IV."



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W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

## NORTHROP P-61 BLACK WIDOW



The glossy black Northrop P-61B on a factory test flight. Note the radar antenna alongside the cockpit. The army serial number below the fin is painted in red, which is standard for black night fighters.

**M** OST of the night fighters used in the war were adapted from existing designs for a specific mission. The only fighter that was specifically designed for night missions was the three-seat, twinengine Northrop P-61. It was named "The Black Widow" because of its overall glossy black coloring.

The U.S. Army became interested in specialized night fighters as a result of British experience with German night raiders in 1940. Northrop Aircraft, Inc., of Hawthorne, CA, responded to an Army request and submitted a design with four fixed, forward-firing, 20mm cannon in the belly; British-designed radar in the nose to detect and track the enemy; and four .50-caliber machine guns in a powered turret for defense.

The engines were 2,000hp Pratt & Whitney R-2800-10s. The plane's most unusual feature was its twin-boom layout, with the crew in a short pod rather than in a full-length fuselage. The radar operator sat alongside the pilot. Two XP-61 prototypes were ordered, followed by 13 YP-61 service test models.

The first XP-61 had a matteblack finish and flew on May 26, 1942. Satisfactory tests resulted in an order for 200 production P-61As with glossy instead of dull paint, and deliveries began late in 1943. From the 38th aircraft on, the top turret was deleted in the belief that added speed was a better defense at night than manually aimed guns. The P-61As were sent to the Pacific and scored their first night victory on July 7, 1944. Others were sent to Europe and participated in the Normandy invasion. The P-61As were followed

by 450 improved P-61Bs in July 1944. Most of these restored the top turret and could carry either four 1,600-pound bombs or two 300 gallon drop tanks under their wings. Final production versions of the Black Widow were 41

P-61Cs with 2,800hp R-2800-77 engines.

Subsequent P-61 designations were for conversions.



P-61As (with black and white "Invasion Stripes") over Europe after the invasion of July 6, 1944. The wartime censor has left the serial numbers on the airplanes but has blacked out the radar antennas. Note the "Shark Face" painted on the nearest plane.

Two XP-61Ds were former P-61As with R-2800-77 engines, and two XP-61Es were P-61Bs

## SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE P-61 B

Wingspan66 ft.
Length
Wing Area 664 sq. ft.
Gross Weight 29,700 lbs.
High Speed
at 20,000 ft.

that were converted to day fighters with four cannons in the nose, no radar or top turret and the two-man crew seated in

tandem under the longest onepiece bubble canopy built to that time. A P-61C conversion to XP-61F was cancelled. Sixteen P-61Bs were converted to unarmed P-61G Weather Reconnaissance planes. The first XP-61E was converted to the XF-15 "photo plane" with cameras in the nose, along with one P-61A that became the XF-15A. Thirty-six production F-15As followed, but they were out of service by 1952.



### W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS
### REPUBLIC P-47 THUNDERBOLT



A Republic P-47D-25 in service with the Royal Air Force as "Thunderbolt II." The streamlined shape under the wing is a rack for either a drop tank or a 500- or 1,000-pound bomb. Note the absence of a dorsal fin.

Thunderbolt, commonly called "The Jug," is an excellent example of a successful fighter that evolved through a series of designs from the same design team.

The Jug's distinctive configuration can be traced back to the 1933 appearance of the Seversky SEV-3 twin-float amphibian. The plane's distinctive features were its all-metal construction, its fuselage with a nearly circular cross-section, and its wing planform (straight sweepback on the leading edge and an elliptical trailing edge and wing tips). This trademark wing planform (shared with the Supermarine Spitfire) was retained for all subsequent Seversky and Republic fighters through the P-47 and some of its experimental derivatives.

Alexander Seversky, a former Imperial Russian Air Force pilot, didn't have a factory when he started business. His first airplane was built by Edo of College Point, NY, a famous builder of all-metal seaplane pontoons. Now, with a successful design to sell, Seversky established a factory in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY. The second Seversky airplane, which was similar to backward-retracting gear. Seversky won a production order for 77 P-35s with 950hp R-1830-9 engines, backwardretracting gear and an armament of one .30-caliber and one .50-caliber machine gun. Deliveries began in 1937, and the last production aircraft



A P-47C shows off the sharp-topped fuselage structure behind the cockpit that earned models before the P-47D-25 the nickname "Razorback."

the first, was initially tested as a two-seat, land-plane fighter with fixed landing gear. It was soon modified (for a U.S. Army fly-off design competition) to a single-seater with an 850hp Pratt & Whitney R-1830 Twin Wasp engine and was fitted with a turbo-supercharger in the belly, and a new wing of the same span and area as the XP-41, but with a different center section and inward-retracting landing gear.

By that time, Seversky had been ousted, and the company

was renamed "Republic." The new features of the XP-41 were incorporated into a new model, the P-43, which used the 1,200hp R-1830-35 engine and a standard armament of two .30-caliber and two .50-caliber machine guns. The fuselage had refined lines and was nearly 2 feet longer than the P-35/XP-41. There were 272 P-43s and P-43As built. Meanwhile, Republic had been selling export versions of the P-35. Of 120 ordered by Sweden, 60 were drafted by the U.S. after the Arms Embargo went into effect, and they were designated "P-35A." Most were shipped to the Philippines, where they soon fell victim to the Japanese Zero.

There was to have been a P-44—essentially the P-43 fitted with the new 1,850hp Pratt & Whitney R-2800 engine—but it was decided that the engine was too big for the existing airframe. A new Republic model that was then being designed (the lightweight XP-47) was cancelled, and the designation "XP-47B" was given to an enlarged development of the P-43 that would use a big engine and eight .50-caliber machine guns (the heaviest armament then fitted to a single-seat fighter). The XP-47B, with a 2,000hp XR-2800-21 engine, flew on May 6, 1941, and it was followed by P-47 production models through P-47N (to a total of 15,683 planes), which are detailed here.

P-47B—This was the first production model, and 171 were built. Deliveries started late in 1942, and some went into action in Europe on April 8, 1943. In combat, the P-47B-RE had inadequate climb and maneuverability, but it had plenty of speed and firepower. It also had excellent diving ability, and its heavy structure could absorb terrific punishment. Its wingspan was 40 feet, 9 inches; area, 300 square feet; gross weight, 13,360 pounds: high speed. 429mph at 27,800 feet.

**P-47C**—The 602 P-47Cs were refined P-47Bs that had their noses lengthened 13 inches and were equipped to carry a 200-gallon drop tank under the fuselage. Although it wasn't quite as fast as the P-47B, its greater range enabled it to be used on longrange escort missions.

**P-47D**—This model was the major production version, and 6,315 were built. The initial improvement was a waterinjected version of the 2,000hp R-2800-21 engine, which gave it a top speed of 433mph at 30,000 feet. Provision was made for two



This P-47D-30 with a dorsal fin and 150-gallon drop tanks has the dark blue stripes of the First Air Commando Group, which was based in Southeast Asia in 1944-45.

150-gallon drop tanks under the wings or a 250- to 1,000pound bomb on the same streamlined rack, plus a 500-pound bomb under the fuselage. A new Republic plant was built in Evansville, IN, and 2,350 P-47D-RAs were built there.

There were two notable external changes during P-47D production: a cut-down rear fuselage and a bubble canopy (as tested on the XP-47K) became standard on the P-47D-25 and on, and a long, shallow dorsal fin was added to the P-47D-27 and on. Because of the two different fuselage configurations, the P-47 models prior to D-25 became known as "Razorbacks."

The P-47D proved to be more effective as a fighterbomber than as an escort fighter, and from P-47D-30 on, provision was made for carrying 10 rockets under the wings in addition to the bombs. England received 240 Razorback P-47Ds as "Thunderbolt I," and 590 P-47D-25s and on as "Thunderbolt II." The gross weight of the P-47D-25 was 19,400 pounds; its high speed was 428mph at 30,000 feet.

**XP-47E**—The last P-47B tested with a pressurized cockpit.

**XP-47F**—One P-47B tested with a laminar-flow wing.

**P-47G**—Duplicates of the P-47B built by Curtiss to compensate for the cancelled P-60A contract.

*XP-47H, J, Kand L*— Experimental conversions which tested new features and equipment. The XP-47J tested a new, liquid-cooled, 2,300hp, 16-cylinder Chrysler XIV-2220-1 engine; the lightened XP-47J with a 2,100hp R-2800-61 engine became the



This is the final "Jug" model, the P-47N, with a lengthened and square-tipped wing. This plane is in fighter-bomber configuration, with two 1,000-pound bombs and 10 rockets.

first piston-engined plane to exceed 500mph; the XP-47K tested the bubble canopy; and the XP-47L had increased internal fuel capacity.

**P-47M**—A need for a fast, high-altitude fighter was met with the P-47M. Only 150 were built after three P-47Ds were modified as YP-47M prototypes. The bomb and rocket racks were deleted, and special 2,800hp R-2800-57 engines gave a top speed of 473mph at 32,500 feet. Most of the P-47Ms were in combat in Europe in the closing months of the war.

P-47N-The final production model, P-47, was produced solely for action in the Pacific. Its new wing had a span of 42 feet, 10 inches, an area of 322 square feet and squared-off wing tips. With additional internal fuel (as tested on the XP-47L), two 93-gallon drop tanks under the wings and a 100-gallon drop tank under the fuselage, the P-47N had a total fuel capacity of 1,266 gallons and a range of 2,350 miles, which was enough to enable it to escort B-29s to Japan in the last months of the war. With a 2,800hp R-2800-77 engine, the P-47N had a gross weight of 20,700 pounds and a high speed of 467mph at 32,500 feet.

Republic built 1,667 P-47Ns in Farmingdale and 149 in Evansville. A further 5,934 planes were cancelled. The P-47 was retired as a first-line fighter right after the war, but bubble-canopy P-47Ds and P-47Ns stayed in the reserve training squadrons until 1955.





W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

### STEARMAN KAYDET

HE Kaydet was the most used U.S. military primary trainer of WW II, but there's often confusion surrounding it because it had two builders' names-Stearman and Boeing. In 1934, after the breakup of the United Aircraft and Transport companies, the Stearman Aircraft Company of Wichita, KS became a wholly owned subsidiary of Boeing. It became Boeing's Stearman Division in 1938, and the Wichita Division of Boeing in 1941, when the airplanes officially became Boeings, even though the old Stearman model and serial numbers were continued. However, all those associated with the airplanes-builders and users alike-stubbornly continued to call the planes Stearmans. and today they're still referred to as such in the antique airplane movement.

In the case of the Stearman/ Boeing Model 75, the use of the name "Kaydet" made it readily identifiable, even though there were eight manufacturers' sub-designations, four U.S. Army model designations and five U.S. Navy N2S series designations (see table).

The original Stearman Model 70 trainer, with a welded-steel tube fuselage and wooden-frame wings, flew late in 1933. The U.S. Navy bought 61 improved Model 73s in 1934 as NS-1 ("N" for trainer, "S" for Stearman) and had them fitted with 220hp Wright J-5 engines that had been out of production since 1929, but were still plentiful in Navy



A Stearman PT-13A banked over to reveal the underside detail. The U.S. Army lettering is 24 inches high; the star insignia is 30 inches in diameter under the wing and 42 inches above.

#### warehouses.

Model 75, which was introduced in October, 1934, was similar to Model 73, but it used three different 220hp radial engines and won large orders from both the Army and the Navy. Altogether, 8,504 biplanes were built in the Model 70-76 series, with spare parts raising the widely publicized total to 10,346 (only the U.S. military Model 75s are shown in the table). Unit prices, less such government-furnished equipment (GFE) as engines and instruments, ranged from \$7,713 to \$10,412.

Until the spring of 1942, the Army Kaydets had colorful blue fuselages, chrome-yellow wing and tail surfaces, and the distinctive Army rudder stripes that had been used since 1926. Subsequent Army deliveries were all silver and without stripes. The winterized PT-27s supplied to Canada under Lend-Lease were all yellow, and some had cockpit canopies. Early Navy Kaydets were all yellow. Most of the later models were all silver, but a few were delivered all yellow.

Before inter-service standardization with the E-75 model, the Army and Navy frequently exchanged their Kaydets. Oddly, the different Navy dash numbers weren't equally significant; the difference between the N2S-1 and -2 was the same as between the Army PT-17 and PT-13, with entirely different engines, while the N2S-1, -3 and -4 differed only in the dash numbers of the same Continental R-670 engine.

Stearman Model	U.S. Army Designation	U.S. Navy Designation	Engine	No. Built
75	PT-13		Lycoming R-680	
A75	PT-13A, B		Lycoming R-680	
A75J-1	PT-18		Jacobs R-755	
A75N-1	PT-17, 17A	N2S-1, -4	Continental R-670	
B75		N2S-2	Lycoming R-680	
B75N-1		N2S-3	Continental R-670	
D75N-1	PT-27		Continental R-670	
E75	PT-13D	N2S-5	Lycoming R-680	



WW II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

### SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE

HE British Supermarine "Spitfire" was one of the greatest all-around fighters of the war. Its lines and performance, however, weren't the result of a long line of pedigreed fighters, in the way that the Hawker Hurricane evolved from Hawker and Sopwith fighters dating back to WW I. Rather, the Spitfire evolved from a line of monoplane seaplane racers that was started by designer Reginald J. Mitchell in 1925. His S-4 model changed the development of high-speed aircraft from biplanes to low-wing monoplanes. Later S-models set new speed records. The S-6B of 1931 retired the Schneider Trophy with a



An early Spitfire I with a fixed-pitch wooden propeller and a straight top canopy. Note the Type A roundel under the wing and the Type A.1 roundel on the fuselage.

speed of 340.8mph around a triangular course, and it later set a new absolute speed record of 407.5mph.

Mitchell's racers were masterpieces in the way they fit the slimmest possible fuselage around a pilot and a liquidcooled engine. This practice continued with the Spitfire, which was built in response to a 1934 Air Ministry request for an eight-gun fighter. The prototype used a 990hp Rolls-Royce Merlin C engine, and featured an elliptical wing planform for maximum aerodynamic efficiency, which was supposed to offset the handicap of added structural complexity. The narrow landing gear retracted outward into the wing, which, in its initial form, contained eight .303caliber machine guns. The semi-monocoque metal fuselage was so narrow at the pilot's shoulder level that it was necessary to install a hinge-down door on the left side for access.

The prototype flew on March 5, 1936, and production orders soon followed. Spitfire Is with 1,030hp Merlins driving fixed-pitch, wooden two-blade propellers began to reach the squadrons



in May 1938. Later articles featured three-blade, controllable-pitch metal propellers. Nine squadrons of Spitfires were in service by the start of the war, and 19 were in service when the Battle of Britain started in August 1940. Spitfires fought in all theaters where the R.A.F. operated.

The early Spitfires were slightly superior to the German Me 109E in speed and maneuverability, but the Me 109 could out-climb and out-dive them, and its guns had greater range. To meet the competition, the Spitfire was continually improved throughout the war years, using two different engines and a variety of wing planforms and structures to accommodate varying armament. It also used different fuselages and tail shapes.

In 1940, three of the famous Eagle Squadrons, manned by American volunteer pilots, flew Spitfires. Because of the shortage of American fighters in 1943, the British provided two U.S. Army Air Force fighter groups in England with Spitfires.

Altogether, the U.S. obtained 600 Spitfires under Reverse Lend-Lease out of the 21,767 built. These weren't given standard U.S. Army designations or serial numbers. Instead, they flew with British designations, serial numbers, equipment and coloring, with only the U.S. star insignia to identify them as being operated by the USAAF.

Although the accompanying drawings show the Spitfire V

with the standard wing and fuselage, the following text and photos cover all of the variants through the postwar Spitfire 24, and identify the significant configuration changes. The higher Mark (Mk) numbers are out of sequence because the Spitfires with Merlin engines are grouped separately from those with Griffon engines. It should be noted that Spit-

fires through Mk XX were identified by Roman numerals, while later ones were identified with Arabic figures.

#### SEA-GOING SPITFIRES

It was inevitable that a successful land-based fighter would be considered for use



A Spitfire H.F.VII with extended triangular wing tips (above) and a Spitfire VB with clipped wing tips (below).



on aircraft carriers. This was done with the Spitfire, which then became the "Seafire." (The basic Seafire and its variants are described following the Griffon Spitfire write-ups.)

SPITFIRE WINGS The basic Spitfire wing had an



A Spitfire Mk VB of the 309th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, with U.S. insignia. Note the bulge on the wing over the cannon breech and the hingedown door necessary for pilot access to the narrow cockpit.

elliptical planform, a span of 36 feet, 10 inches and an area of 242 square feet. It was built in three types: A. B and C. The A-Wing had provision for four or eight .303-caliber machine guns entirely enclosed within it. The B-Wing had provision for two 20mm cannon in place of two machine guns. The C-Wing was called the "Universal Wing," and it could carry two 20mm cannons and either two or four .303 guns. The final wing was the E-Wing, which had only 1 inch more span but 2 feet more area, because of its different root and tip shapes. This wing was fitted with four 20mm cannons.

# SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE



A Spitfire F.Mk XIV with a Rolls-Royce Griffon engine, four-blade propeller, cut-down rear fuselage with bubble canopy, and an enlarged vertical tail.

In all cases, the structure of the A-, B- and C-wings allowed for planform variations. The wing-tip panels could be removed and the ends covered to produce a "clipped wing" with a 32-foot, 7-inch span. The span could also be increased to 40 feet, 2 inches by adding new triangular tips in place of the ellipticals. These span changes could be made within the various Spitfire Marks without affecting the Mark numbers. Some of the Spitfire Mark numbers mentioned below were assigned to Seafires.

#### **MERLIN-POWERED** SPITFIRES

Mark I-This was the initial production model, with a 1,030hp Merlin II engine and a non-retractable tail wheel. The early straight-top canopy

changed to the bulged type to increase the pilot's headroom and visibility. There were four .303 auns in the Mk I because of a shortage; but there were eight in the

Mk IA. It had no protective armor. The Mk 1B had a B-Wina.

Mark II-This was just like the Mk I but had a 1.050hp Merlin XII engine and 73 pounds of armor. The Mk IIB had two 20mm cannons and four .303 guns in the B-Wing. A few flew in the Battle of Britain, and some were later converted to Mk V with more armor and a Merlin 45 engine.

Mark III-This was a single prototype, strengthened to take the two-stage Merlin XX engine that delivered 1,280hp for takeoff and 1,480hp at 12,250 feet. It had additional armor, a strengthened structure, a retractable tail wheel and clipped wings. The 1,000 production versions ordered were completed as "Mks V" and "IX," and a further 120 were cancelled.

P.R. Mark III-Unrelated to the Mk III prototype, many Mks I and II were fitted with cameras in the fuselage and redesignated "P.R. Mk III" (for "Photoreconnaissance").

P.R. Mark IV-This unarmed photoreconnaissance variant appeared in September 1941. Extra range was obtained by building fuel tanks into the leading edge of the wing, thereby eliminating the guns. Various cameras were in the fuselage, as they were on the P.R. Mk III.

Mark V-A major advance, using the Merlin 45, 50, or 50A (1,470hp at 9,250 feet). or the -46 engine that delivered 1.415hp at 14.000 feet. Mks VB and VC could carry 115 or 175 Imperial gallon auxiliary tanks under the fuselage and either two 250- or one 500-pound bomb. The Mk VC introduced the C-Wing and entered service in March 1941. Some were modified for low-altitude work with 1,585hp Merlin 45M, 50M, or 55M engines, and were redesignated "L.F. Mk V" (for "Low-Altitude Fighter").

Mark VI-This high-altitude

fighter with a pressurized cockpit and 1,415hp Merlin 47 engine was developed from the Mk VB. This model introduced the extended, pointed wing tips. Gross weight: 7,178 pounds; high speed: 364mph at 22.000 feet.

Mark VII-A designedfor-the-purpose high-altitude fighter with a two-stage. 1,710hp Merlin 64 engine, a C-Wing and a retractable tail wheel. It was delivered in April 1942. Gross weight: 7,875 pounds; high speed: 408mph at 25.000 feet.

F. Mark VIII-This was similar to the Mk VII, but didn't have the pressurization. The high-altitude version with an extended wing was designated "H.F. Mk VIII"; the lowaltitude version with clipped wings was designated "L.F. Mk VIII." Several Mk VIIIs were used for experimental modifications, but retained their "Mk VIII" designation.

Mark IX-With the Mk V outclassed by later Me 109s and the new Focke-Wulf Fw 190. Mk V airframes were refitted with 1,720hp Merlin 66 engines and redesignated "Mk

> IX." There were three versionsstandard F. H.F. and L.F.-all with the Mk V's fixed tail wheel. Deliveries began in July 1942. H.F. Mk IX gross weight: 7.500 pounds; high



The first Spitfire Mk 22, with a Griffon engine, five-blade propeller, bubble canopy and enlarged tail. Note the bulges in the nose to cover the cylinder banks of the larger engine.

#### W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS

The final variant of the Spitfire line: the Seafire Mk 46 with contra-rotating propellers. Note the extension of the rudder carried by the stinger-type arrester hook. The later Mk 47 was very similar, except for its greater fuel capacity and folding wings.



speed: 416mph at 27,500 feet. *P.R. Mark X*—A pressurized photo-reconnaissance version of the Mk IX.

P.R. Mark XI—Just like the P.R. Mk X but without pressurization. It was delivered in 1942.

*Mark XVI*—Similar to the Mk IX; some had a C-Wing, and later versions had an E-Wing and an enlarged vertical tail. Others had a cut-down rear fuselage and a bubble canopy. It was delivered in 1944 with a low-altitude, American-built Packard Merlin engine.

#### GRIFFON-POWERED SPITFIRES

The need for greater performance resulted in the installation of the 1,735-2,050hp Rolls-Royce Griffon engine. This was larger than the Merlin (2,240-cubic-inch displacement vs. 1,650). The larger size resulted in prominent bulges in the longer nose to cover the cylinder banks. Four- and five-blade propellers were used, and some variants used two three-blade counterrotating propellers. Altogether, 2,053 Spitfires were delivered with Griffon engines.

Mark IV—The Griffon prototype, with a 1,735hp engine, a four-blade propeller and an extensively reinforced structure. A mock-up wing was fitted with six 20mm cannon, but no six-cannon Spitfire was ever produced. To avoid confusion with the Merlin-powered P.R. Mk IV, the Mk IV prototype was redesignated "Mk XX."

Mark XII-Built in two ver-

sions: a strengthened Mk VC airframe for low-altitude fighting with a fixed tail wheel; and a Mk VIII airframe with retractable tail wheels. All entered service early in 1943 and had larger vertical tails and fourblade propellers. Gross weight: 7,400 pounds; high speed: 393mph at 18,000 feet.

*Mark XIV*— These had Mk VIII airframes with five-blade propellers. Some late articles had cut-down rear fuselages and bubble canopies. The F.R. Mk XIVE was a fighter-reconnaissance variant with fuselage cameras and a 2,050hp Griffon 65 engine. Gross weight: 8,500 pounds; high speed: 448mph at 26,000 feet.

Mark XVIII—Built from scratch in two versions: the F.Mk XVIII fighters and the F.R. Mk XVIII fighterreconnaissance planes. Both versions had a reinforced fuselage and wing, and carried additional fuel. They were delivered too late to serve in the war.

**P.R. Mark XIX**—Unarmed Mk XIV airframes with a Mk VC wing. The first 20 weren't pressurized, but the final 225 were. They were operational in the closing months of the war.

Mark XX—The Mk IV prototype redesignated.

*Mark 21*—A major redesign with new E-Wing and fuselage structure but old-style cockpit canopy. Its powerplant was a 2,050hp Griffon 61 engine driving a five-blade propeller. It had four-cannon armament. This design was made too late for combat; only 122 of the 1,500 Mk 21s ordered were built. Gross weight: 9,200 pounds; high speed: 454mph at 26,000 feet.

*Mark 22*—This was similar to the Mk 22, except for its cut-down rear fuselage and bubble canopy. Some had contra-rotating propellers.

Mark 24—The last of 21,767 Spitfires and Seafires built was the Mk 24, which was similar to the Mk 22, but had increased fuel capacity. The last one was delivered to the R.A.F. in October 1947. SEAFIRES

*Mark IB*—This was a conversion of A-Wing Mk VB Spitfires with A-frame arrester hooks (see "Hawker Sea Hurricane"). They were put into service in June 1942. Seafires participated in the invasion of North Africa in November 1942.

Mark IIC—These were built as new airframes similar to the Mk VC Spitfires with C-Wings. It came in two versions, the F. Mk IIC and the L.F. Mk IIC; the latter had a 1,645hp Merlin 32 engine and four-blade propeller. Some L.F. IICs were fitted with cameras and operated as "P.R. Mk IIC."

Mark III—A disadvantage of the early Seafires was their lack of folding wings for shipboard storage. On the designed-for-the-purpose Mk III, the outer wing panels folded upward near the root, and the tips folded downward to reduce the height and clear the ceiling of the below-deck hangars. Its armament was two 20mm cannon and four .303 guns. The fuselage was reinforced for catapult launching, and up to 500 pounds of bombs could be carried. Variants were the L.F. Mk III and F.R. Mk III. Engine: 1,470hp Merlin 55; gross weight: 7,100 pounds; high speed: 352mph at 12,250 feet.

*Mark XV*—This was essentially a sea-going variant of the Mk XII Spitfire, with a 1,850hp Griffon VI engine and a fourblade propeller. After the first 50, the arrester hook was changed from the A-frame type to a stinger type below the rudder which was fitted with a fairing that continued the rudder contour. Gross weight: 8,000 pounds; high speed: 383mph at 13,500 feet.

Mark XVII—Similar to the Mk XV except for the bubble canopy.

*Mark* 45—The postwar equivalent of the Spitfire Mk 22, with non-folding wings and a Griffon 61 engine with a five-blade propeller.

Mark 46—Similar to the Mk 45, except that it was powered by a Griffon 87 engine driving co-axial propellers. Also, it had the fuselage structure and bubble canopy of the Spitfire Mk 22.

*Mark* 47—Similar to the Mk 46, except that its wings folded upward outboard of the cannon, and it wasn't necessary to fold the wing tips.







**SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE** 



### THE VEGA VENTURA



The first Ventura I ordered by Britain on a factory test flight. The British turret is installed, but the guns aren't in yet. Note the step-up forward of the tail for the ventral gunner's station.

N 1938, Lockheed introduced an improved version of its Model 14 airliner as the "Model 18 Lodestar." The British were pleased with the Hudson bomber conversion of the Model 14, and they asked Lockheed to do the same with the Model 18, but with more major changes.

The principal change was the use of the new 1.850hp Pratt & Whitney S1A4-G (R-2800) Double Wasp engine in place of the 875 to 1,200hp airliner powerplants. The R-2800s used wide-blade, or "paddle," propellers because the location of the engine nacelles on the Lodestar wing precluded larger diameters, and four-blade units weren't desirable. A bomber nose and a bomb bay similar to those on the Hudson were fitted, but the lower rear fuselage was modified to accommodate a ventral gunner's station, which resulted in a distinctive upward step toward the tail. A powered dorsal turret was installed farther forward than

the one on the Hudson.

Lockheed gave the new bomber a new model number (37), and the British, after placing an initial order for 300 in May 1940, named it "Ventura." A further 375 were ordered later that year, and its first flight was on July 31, 1941.

The Venturas weren't built in Lockheed's Burbank plant, or even by Lockheed as such. Vega Aircraft Corp., a whollyowned subsidiary with a factory adjacent to the Lockheedowned Union Air Terminal in Burbank, was selected to build the Ventura, hence its identity as a Vega rather than a Lockheed product. On November 30, 1943, Vega was absorbed by Lockheed, and the factory, where 2,750 Boeing B-17s were also being produced, became "Lockheed Plant 1A." Some Ventura variants for the U.S. Army were built in the main Lockheed plant.

Ventura I—These had armament of two fixed and two flexible .303-caliber machine guns in the nose; two or four more in the dorsal turret; two in the waist positions; and two



View from above of a U.S. Army Vega B-34, with two fixed .50-caliber machine guns and two flexible .30-caliber guns in the nose; .50-caliber guns are in the Martin powered turret and the ventral gun station.

in the ventral station. The Ventura I could also carry 2,500 pounds of bombs. The first Mark Is were powered with 1,850hp civil engines. Deliveries began in September 1941, and Venturas were in service by November.

Ventura II—The 487 Ventura IIs carried more fuel, 3,000 pounds of bombs and four guns in the turret, and they were powered with 2,000hp U.S. Army R-2800-31 engines.

Ventura IIA-These were 200 planes originally ordered for Britain under Lend-Lease that carried the U.S. Army designation "B-34." Only 25 were sent to the R.A.F.; others went to other Empire forces-20 to Australia, 25 to Canada with R.A.F. serial numbers, and 23 to New Zealand. The rest remained in the U.S. and were soon designated "RB-34," since they weren't considered suitable for combat missions. Most were used as trainers and for utility work.

Ventura III and IV—The Ventura III was to have been an R.A.F. version of the U.S. Army O-56 (later the B-37), but none of them were procured. No "Ventura IV" designation was assigned.

Ventura V—These were "navalized" versions of the Ventura supplied under Lend-Lease by the U.S. Navy from PV-1 orders. British forces acquired 388, and many were diverted to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.



The prefix "G.R." was given to reconnaissance versions as in "G.R. Mark V."

American Venturas—The U.S. Army took over some of the British-contract Ventura Is, and then provided others to the R.A.F. and its own squadrons from later B-34 contracts. The Army, however, called its B-34s "Lexington" rather than "Ventura." The U.S. Navy became the major user of Venturas as "PV-1" and "PV-3," still using the British name.

*Model 37*—Because the drafted Ventura Is didn't meet U.S. Army specifications, they couldn't be given Army designations or serial numbers. Instead, the Army simply called them "Model 37." These became "R Model 37" in October 1942. This resulted in an interesting bit of confusion by some when they misunderstood the spoken letter "R" to mean "Our Model 37," as compared with the British Model 37.

**B-34**—The first 200 Lend-Lease Venturas were designated "B-34," and only 24 went to the U.S. Army. Major changes included an American Martin turret and American equipment and armament, including .50-caliber machine guns.

B-34A—A further 211

B-34s: 66 went to Britain and the others went to the U.S. Army as follows: 101 B-34A-2 bomber trainers, 28 B-34A-3 gunnery trainers and 16 B-34A-4 target tugs.

**B-37**—The Army ordered 550 armed reconnaissance/ observation versions of the Ventura under the designation "O-56." Before they were completed, however, the Army discontinued the "O for Observation" category and redesignated the O-56s as bombers, since they fit that category and could still carry 2,000 pounds of bombs. The designation "B-34B" was to have been assigned, but beLong-range reconnaissance version of the U.S. Navy Vega PV-1 with 155gallon drop tanks. Note the painted-over (once transparent) bomber nose, and the oddity of the star insignia on both the nose and the att fuselage.

cause the planes had 1,700hp Wright R-2600-13 Double Cyclone engines instead of Pratt & Whitneys, they were given the new bomber designation "B-37." Production was in the main Lockheed plant, but because the space was needed for other projects, the contract was cut short. Only 18 B-37s were built, and they were used as trainers.

**PV-1**—The U.S. Navy, with 1,600 PV-1 variants ordered as "PV-1" ("P" for Patrol; "V" for Vega), was the major Ventura user. These carried



Top photo: an unarmed U.S. Army Ventura I that had been drafted from the British order and redesignated "Lockheed Model 37." Above: one of the 18 U.S. Army Lexingtons that had been ordered as 0-56 observation planes, but were delivered as B-37 bombers.

additional internal fuel, plus two 155-gallon drop tanks and fittings for 10 5-inch rockets, and they could carry up to 3,000 pounds of bombs, depth charges, or a torpedo in the bomb bay. The Navy used its Venturas widely in the Pacific and in Alaska from early 1943 until the end of the war. Armament varied greatly according to the mission, including night fighters for the U.S. Marines with three-man crews, six fixed nose guns and British night-intercept radar. Some photographic conversions were designated "PV-1P."

**PV-2**—A greatly revised Ventura with longer wings, larger tail surfaces and extensive internal and armament changes was ordered in 1943. The revisions justified its new name, "Harpoon," and made this plane too different from the basic Ventura to be called such. Harpoons did see action late in the war.

**PV-3**—To get Venturas into its inventory before the PV-1s on order could be built, the U.S. Navy took the last 27 of the British Ventura IIs and designated them "PV-3" in October 1942.



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SCALE

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DRAWINGS

## **VOUGHT SB2U** CHESAPEAKE/ VINDICATOR



device was necessary to swing the bomb clear of the propeller. Two 100-pound bombs could be carried on racks under the wing. The powerplant for the production SB2U-1s was the 825hp Pratt & Whitney R-1535-96, and 54 planes were ordered in October 1936. An odd feature (compared with previous scout models) was the great distance between the cockpits.

The SB2U-1s entered

The following figures compare the weight and performance of the SB2U-1 and the SB2U-3:

Empty Weight	5,049/5,620 lbs.
Gross Weight	7,888/8,900 lbs.
Rate of Climb	
Service Ceiling .	26,400/ 22,000 ft.
Fuel	. 690/2,766 lbs.*
High Speed	250/221mph (at 9,500 ft.)
Range	1,120/2,640 statute miles
*Navy specific	ation tables for

1941 give pounds instead of gallons.



A Vought V-156F of the French Navy. Note the red, white and blue stripes on the elevators and the rudder, and the dive brakes on the wing (a feature not used on the U.S. Navy/Marine SB2Us).

An SB2U-3 in the overall light gray adopted for tactical U.S. Navy planes in February 1941. This is Airplane No. 16 of the Marine Scouting Squadron One (VMS-1).

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**S** TARTING in the early 1920s, the Chance Vought Corporation of Long Island City, NY (later of East Hartford, CT), was the major supplier of scouting and observation planes to the U.S. Navy. Until 1934, scouting, light bombing and observation were considered separate missions, and the airplanes used separate "S," "B" and "O" designations. In 1934, some missions and designations were combined; e.g., "SB" for Scout-Bombers and "OS" for Observation-Scouts.

Vought entered the dualdesignation era with the SBU-1 biplane, which started as the XF3U-1 two-seat fighter. The 124 SBU-1s and -2s were

Vought's last biplanes. Changing requirements and the Navy's final acceptance of monoplanes for use on aircraft carriers resulted in subsequent Navy monoplane designs.

Vought responded to a U.S. Navy requirement for a folding-wing monoplane scoutbomber, and they received a contract for one XSB2U-1 on October 11, 1934. Like the Hawker Hurricane, the SB2U (Vought's Model 156) carried traditional Vought tube-andfabric structure into the monoplane age. The SBU fuselage construction and tail shape were adapted to a new, metal-frame, low-cantilever wing that contained retractable landing gear. The wing had a single spar, a closed aluminum D-tube from the spar

forward for torsional strength, and it was fabriccovered aft of the spar. The wing folded upward outboard of the flat center section by means of a manually operated screw jack that was secured to fittings on the wing and fuselage.

Its armament was two .30- or .50-caliber machine guns in the wings, and a single, flexible, .30-caliber gun in the rear cockpit. A single 500- or 1,000-pound bomb was carried on an ejector rack under the belly. Because the SB2U was a vertical dive bomber, this



service in December 1937, and they were followed by 58 improved SB2U-2s that were ordered in January 1938. The final order was for 57 SB2U-3s that were delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps late in 1940. The -3s were heavier because of their increased fuel and armor and their two additional wing guns.

In 1938, the Navy allowed Vought to build 40 SB2U-2s for the French Navy as "V-156F" ("F" for France). These planes were equipped to French requirements, including the novel reverseaction French throttles that pulled back to increase power. French armament was installed in France. The V-156Fs served on French aircraft carriers and with shore-based squadrons, and they were the only SB2U types to go on the offensive (some made bombing raids from southern France into northern Italy in 1940). After the fall of France, England took over a second French contract for 50 V-156Fs, and named them "Chesapeake." Vought designated them "V-156B-1" ("B" for Britain).

The U.S. didn't adopt the British name, as it did with some other U.S. models in British service. When U.S. military planes were given "popular" names in October 1941, the SB2Us were named "Vindicator."

When the planes were reequipped to British standards (including forward-open throttles and extra armor),

This underside view of the SB2U-3 1-S-16 shows the retracted landing gear and racks for 100-pound bombs. Note the star on the lower right wing.

the Chesapeakes were too heavy to operate from the small British carriers to which they had been assigned. As a result, they were reassigned to secondary shore duty and didn't see combat. It has been stated, but not verified, that the Germans used captured V-156Fs for scouting missions



A front view of the SB2U-2 with its wings folded. Note that the turning handles on the right-hand jack are extended, and that those on the left jack are folded.



The British V-156B-1 Chesapeake, photographed at the factory in March 1941.

along the English coast.

By the middle of 1940, SB2U-1s and -2s were flying with seven U.S. Navy squadrons from four of the Navv's six big carriers. By the end of 1941, there were only four squadrons aboard two carriers. The U.S. Marines had all of their SB2U-3s at shore bases. Some of the carrierbased SB2Us that were at Pearl Harbor on December 7. 1941, were destroyed on the ground by the Japanese. Later Marine SB2U-3s were ferried to Midway Island, where they attacked Japanese ships during the Battle of Midway in June 1942.

Four SB2U squadrons served on the carriers "Wasp" and "Ranger" in the Atlantic until the end of 1942. They finished their service as trainers.

In 1939, the United Aircraft Corporation, the parent firm of both Vought and Sikorsky, merged the two into a single entity: the Vought-Sikorsky Division of United. The Vought factory was moved from East Hartford into the Sikorsky plant in Stratford, CT. The SB2U-3s that were then being built technically became "Vought-Sikorskys" instead of "Chance Voughts."







ESAPEAKE/VIND 35 SB2 /006

# VOUGHT OS2U KINGFISHER

HE Vought OS2U Kingfisher was the most widely used U.S. Navy shipboard catapult plane of the war. On March 22, 1937, the Chance Vought Company (then of East Hartford, CT) received a contract for a single XOS2U-1. which was intended as a replacement for older Vought and Curtiss biplanes that were still serving the fleet. The prototype first flew on July 20, 1938, and an order for 54 production OS2U-1s followed. The first examples, which were mostly seaplanes, reached the fleet in August 1940, while others equipped with wheels were assigned to naval air stations and reserve training bases around the country.

As an airplane, the Kingfisher had little in common with previous Vought designs, other than the SBU-SB2U tail shape. It was an all-metal monoplane with a 450hp Pratt & Whitney R-985-48 Twin Wasp Jr. engine. The distance between the pilot and the observer/gunner was unusual, even when it was compared



A Vought OS2U-3 Kingfisher seaplane, with 1943-44 dark blue-gray camouflage on the upper surfaces graduating to white undersides. The hook under the float was used to snag a retrieval net before the seaplane was hoisted aboard the mother shin.

SPECIFICATIONS

**OS2U-3** 

AND PERFORMANCE

Powerplant ...... Pratt & Whitney

Wingspan ...... 35ft., 107/8 in.

Gross Weight ..... 6,000 lbs.

High Speed ..... 165mph

R-198-AN-2 or -8:450hp

at 5.500 ft.

with the SB2U. A structural innovation for a production airplane was the spot-welding (rather than riveting) of sheet aluminum.

The seaplane version

used a single main float and wing-tip floats. Early floats were made by Vought, but the majority of them were built on a separate Navv

contract by the Edo Corporation of College Point, Long Island, NY. The airplanes were flown from the new Vought-

> Sikorsky plant in Stratford. CT, to naval air stations. where the floats were installed in Navy shops. The Navy was also involved in the manufacture of the



Kingfisher. After Vought delivered 158 improved OS2U-2s with R-985-50 engines, and was working on 1,006 longerrange OS2U-3s, the U.S. Naval Aircraft factory in Philadelphia, PA. built 300 OS2U-3s as "OS2N-1" (the Navy had built a single XOSN-1 biplane of its own design there in 1938; hence the "OS2N-1" designation).

British forces received 100 OS2U-3s in 1942, and kept the name "Kingfisher." In the U.S., Kingfishers (on wheels and on floats) served with the Inshore Patrol Squadrons. In the fleet. they operated on wheels from aircraft carriers, and catapult seaplane versions served on battleships and cruisers until the end of the war.

Although they were usually low-performance scouts and observers that were lightly armed (two .30-caliber machine guns and two 325pound depth charges), Kingfishers earned great fame for numerous rescue missions, where they picked up downed air crews from under the guns of Japanese shore batteries, and found lost personnel. The most famous of these missions was the successful 22day search for Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, America's WWI Ace, who was forced down in the Pacific with a B-17 crew in November 1943.

An OS2U-3 ashore on its fixed landing gear. This is airplane no. 6 of Scouting Squadron Six, in the dark bluegray top and side camouflage, and light gray underside camouflage, of 1942-43.

#### W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS



**VOUGHT OS2U KINGFISHEI** 

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### WESTLAND LYSANDER



A Westland Lysander II photographed at Kabrit, Egypt, in 1943. Note the lowered wing flaps and the very large pants (spats) over the wheels.

HE British Westland "Lysander" was developed in 1935 by Westland Aircraft, Ltd., of Yeovil, England. Westland applied latter-day technology to the traditional "Army Cooperation" airplane, which had been standardized by the major air powers as a large, versatile, open-cockpit biplane. Its mission was to

work with the ground forces through observation and reconnaissance; photography; light bombing; and ground attack with machine guns. In pre-radio days, such planes could also pick up messages from ground points and drop them (and small quantities of supplies) to remote outposts.

The metal-framed Lysander



Lysander IIs with stub wings in place on the landing gear; the wheel covers have been removed. Note the far-aft location of the fuselage bomb racks and the early form of the narrow fin flash that was adopted in mid-1940.

retained all of the required Army Cooperation qualities, despite such major changes as a high monoplane wing, and a closed cabin in which the gunner/observer sat far to the rear, separated from the pilot by the fuel tank.

The single-wing design was much more than a simple deletion of the lower wing of a traditional biplane in the interest of improved crew visibility and streamlining. The odd planform (see photos and drawings) resulted in an overall aerodynamic forward sweep of the wing-an innovation that was many years ahead of its time. It also featured large trailingedge flaps, and full-span, automatic, leading-edge slats that opened for slow-speed flight. Both features were relatively new to military aircraft. and they gave the

Lysander unprecedented short takeoff and landing (STOL) performance.

Its initial powerplant was the 890hp Bristol Mercury XII radial engine; it had the unique Bristol-type cowling in which the leading edge of the cowling was also the collector ring for the engine exhaust. The single exhaust stack was at the lower right side. The Lysander's initial armament was a pair of forward-firing, .303-caliber machine guns in the wheel fairings outboard of the propeller arc, and a single WW I vintage, .303-caliber Lewis machine gun in the rear cockpit. Using both belly racks and racks on winglets, sixteen 20-pound bombs, four 216-pound bombs or two 250-pound bombs could be carried. Other stores, such as flares, smoke generators, supply cannisters and auxiliary fuel tanks, could also be

### SPECS AND PERFORMANCE LYSANDER III

Powerplant		
Empty Weight		
Gross Weight	6,318 lbs.	
High Speed2	209mph at sea level; 96mph at 15,000 ft.	
Minimum Speed		
(at gross weight)		
Takeoff Run (to clear 50-foot obstacle) 		
Landing Run (ove	r 50-foot obstacle) 1,020 ft.	



carried by the versatile Lysander.

Another innovative Lysander feature was the single-leg landing gear, which was designed for high-impact short and hard landings. It had large spats over the wheels, and it could be fitted with stub wings, called "winglets," that served as mounts for bomb racks, rescue equipment and miscellaneous supplies. Later, a large cylindrical cargo container or auxiliary fuel tank was fitted under the belly. The first flight of the prototype was on June 15, 1936.

Lysander I—Successful tests of two prototypes resulted in an order for 169 Lysander Is, and production was completed in 1939. Gross weight was 4,065 pounds. Lysander II—This was similar to the Mk I, except for a change to a 905hp Bristol Perseus XII sleeve-valve engine. Because of size and detail differences, this wasn't interchangeable with the Mercury engine. Westland built 442 Mk IIs, and a further 75 were built in Canada. Gross weight was 6,015 pounds.

**Lysander III**—This plane "reverted" to an 870hp Mercury XX engine; 250 were built in Yeovil, and another 17 were built in a new Westland plant in Doncaster. The armament was increased to two flexible machine guns.

Lysander IIIA—These were improved Mk IIIs with 870hp Mercury 30 engines; 370 were built. A further 100 were completed as unarmed T.T. Mk III target tugs.

The R.A.F. had seven squadrons of Lysanders in service when the war started, and six were sent to France. Their role was traditional as long as the front remained stable in the "Sitzkrieg." When the "Blitzkrieg" began on May 10, 1940, the old Army Cooperation role was shattered: the Lysander and similar types were unable to operate in the old way. Their own troops were hard to follow in the rapidly changing scene; enemy armored columns were impervious to light machine-



This view of a Lysander III with a belly-mounted auxiliary fuel tank shows the full-span wing slats open during a landing approach.

Side view of the Lysander II. Note how the rear portion of the cabin enclosure slides straight aft.

gun attacks and even to light bombs, and they possessed formidable firepower that was deadly to slow, low-flying aircraft. Further, the overwhelming German air power shot down many Lysanders, and destroyed others on their airfields. Of 174 Lysanders sent to France, only 50 were able to return to England— 88 were lost in combat, and 36 were either destroyed on the ground or abandoned by their retreating squadrons.

Many British-based Lysanders were lost in the Battle of France, when they flew across the Channel to drop supplies to surrounded Allied troops and were hit by German ground fire.

The Army Cooperation role continued in modified form in other theaters of the warnotably in North Africa, were Lysanders had been sent before the war. After the war began, Lysanders also served in Greece, Palestine and India. The Lysanders' most famous operation-and the one best suited to their STOL characteristics-was the nighttime shuttling of French Resistance and other agents (and supplies) into and out of occupied France. Between August 1941 and late 1944, some 400 such sorties were made, with nearly 300 people flown in and 500 brought out. For this clandestine work, the Lysanders were painted overall matte black.









SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS WW 11

### THE WESTLAND WHIRLWIND



Only 12 Westland Whirlwinds were built after this P7110. Note the four-cannon armament and the "bullet" at the fin-stabilizer intersection that wasn't on the two prototypes.

THE British Westland Whirlwind was the world's first production twin-engine, single-seat fighter that was designed as such. The prototype flew on October 11, 1938, beating the American Lockheed XP-38 by three

months. The Whirlwinds saw extensive action in Europe during the war, but they weren't built in great numbers. There were two prototypes, and only 144 production models that equipped two fighter squadrons.

Design of the Whirlwind began in 1936, in response to

an Air Ministry request for a twin-engine, single-seat fighter. Westland beat proposals from Bristol and Hawker, and received a contract for two prototypes in February 1937. The Whirlwind airframe was, in effect, a scaling-down of conventional twin-engine transports and bombers; it had a shorter nose, engines in nacelles on the wing, and landing gear that retracted into the nacelles. This led to odd proportions, because the single-seat airframe was relatively small, but the nacelles,

This view from above shows engine and radiator air intakes, located in the leading edge of the wing, between the fuselage and the nacelles. Note the 1940 Sand and Spinach camouflage, the Type A.1 roundels on the fuselage and the Type B roundels on the upper wing surface.



### SPECIFICATIONS AND **PERFORMANCE:** WHIRLWIND

Powerplant ...... Rolls-Royce Peregrine, 860hp at 2,850rpm at 13,500 ft.; 885hp at 3,000 rpm at 15,000 ft.

with their standard-size engines, had to be as big as those on much larger aircraft.

The structure was all metal, including even the covering of the control surfaces. Its powerplants were 885hp Rolls-Royce Peregrines, which were developments of the earlier Rolls-Royce Kestrel that preceded the famous Merlin. The Whirlwind was the only airplane to use this engine, and troubles with the Peregrine hindered Whirlwind production and operations. Armament was the heaviest of any British fighter of the time: it had a battery of four 20mm cannons in the nose.

An initial order for 200 Whirlwinds was soon followed by an order for 200 more. Production began in Westland's Yeovil plant, but it suffered from the higher priority that was given to the Lysander program, and the

first production Whirlwind didn't fly until May 1940. Two Whirlwinds, plus the second prototype, were assigned to No. 25 Fighter Squadron, but they were withdrawn when that unit was re-equipped with Bristol Beaufighters. The three, and other Whirlwinds, were then assigned to No. 253 Squadron, but because there were so few of them, they didn't participate in the Battle of Britain. Whirlwinds didn't engage the enemy until January 12, 1941, when two were sent up to intercept a lone German bomber over England. They scored a "probable"; and the first confirmed victory came on February 8, when a German Arado 196 seaplane was shot down.

The Whirlwind was kept secret from the public until February 1942. The Germans. however, knew of it much earlier: they had accurate

This underside view of the Whirlwind shows the landing gear completely enclosed in nacelles, and Type A roundels under the wing.

silhouettes of the Whirlwind in their aircraft recognition manuals.

The short range of the Whirlwind precluded its use as an escort on long-distance bomb raids, but it did conduct ft.; 270mph at 15,000 ft. with escorts as far as Holtwo 500-lb. bombs. land. Although it could hold its own against the Messerschmitt 109, the Whirlwind lacked high-altitude capability—a feature that wasn't considered important in a fighter when it was designed. but became very important after the war started. Whirlwinds equipped a second squadron (No. 137), and participated in low-altitude missions. They took part in attacks on German airfields and military installations in western France from their bases in England.

Bombing was added to the Whirlwind's activity in mid-1942, when racks for two 250pound or two 500-pound bombs were added to the wings outboard of the nacelles. This version was named the "Whirlibomber."

The Whirlwind was already suffering from low priorities in its own factory, and production suffered further setbacks when the new Ministry of Aircraft Production decided to cancel Peregrine engine production in favor of increased Merlin production. As a result, the second order for 200 Whirlwinds was cancelled, and only 144 on the first order were completed. Westland

Wingspan	45 ft.
Length	32 ft., 3 in.
Wing Area	250 sq. ft.
Empty Weight	8,310 lbs.
Gross Weight (fighter); 11,388 with two 500-lb.	10,356 lbs. 8 lbs. (bomber bombs).
High Speed at 5,000 ft.; 360	

then converted the Whirlwind production line to licensed production of Supermarine

Spitfires. The delivered airplanes were now "orphaned," with little support from the factory or the engine manufacturer; and the operational Whirlwinds were withdrawn from service. No. 263 Squadron was the last to use them, and 12 Whirlwinds made a spectacular attack on Cherbourg Harbor in France on October 22, 1943.

A variety of British colors and markings were used during the career of the Whirlwind. The first prototype was painted overall red with white letters and Type A roundels all over. The second prototype was all silver, again with Type A roundels. The odd arrangement of a black underside for the left wing, with a Type A.1 roundel matching a Type A roundel under the duck-egg blue right wing, is correct. This arrangement was also used by some other British fighters in 1940. Type C roundels were used on the fuselage and under the wings from July 1942 on.



### W W II SCALE AIRCRAFT DRAWINGS


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