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# Scale Aircraft Drawings

Volume 1—World War I

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### Contents

Introduction	
AIRCRAFT	
Albatros D.I to D.VI       7         Ansaldo SVA-1       12         Antoinette VII       14         Armstrong-Whitworth F.K. 8       16         Bleriot XI       18         Boeing MB-3A       20         Bristol F2B Fighter       22         Chance Vought VE-7, VE-9, & UO-1       27         Curtiss Jenny JN-4—JN-6H       32         Curtiss Model D       37         deHavilland D.H. 1       39	Sopwith Dolphin 5F.1       102         Sopwith Snipe 7F.1       107         Spad S.VII C.1       110         Spad S.XIA-2       114         Spad S.XIII C.1       119         Standard J-1       123         Thomas Morse S-4B, C, & E       126         Wright 1903 Flyer, Model A,       & Model B       131
deHavilland D.H. 4       43         Fokker Dr.I Triplane       48         Fokker D.VII       51         Fokker E.V/D.VIII       56         Hansa-Brandenburg C.I       61         Hansa-Brandenburg W.29       64         Junkers D.I       67         Loening M-8       69         Nieuport Nighthawk       72         Pfalz D.III       75	ENGINESClerget136Hispano-Suiza138Mercedes 160hp & 180hp141Siemens-Halske144
Pfalz D.XII	ARMAMENT  Lewis Machine Gun

### INTRODUCTION

by DAN SANTICH

he time-scale of this book represents the period in history when aviation was born. There were no rules. In many cases pilots were self-taught and their airplanes were handmade creations of fabric, wood, and dreams. Pilot comfort was not a pressing issue, and airports to operate from were a long time in coming.

Most of the aircraft presented in this book are only memories: scraps of fabric and wire that one time filled the sky with ambition and heroics. The photographs are all authentic; they represent a relatively new idea for the era—aviation photography.

A scale model is only as good as the effort that went into the research of it. There is, in absolute terms for scale modelers, no substitute for a dimension. A measurement of a given dimension of a given part of an aircraft is one of the most valuable aids to a scale project. With that dimension, a conversion to inches is a simple matter of mathematics. If it isn't given, it's only a guess.

These drawings are of both historical and artistic interest, and are what are generally referred to as Master Drawings.

This book is dedicated to the doer and the dreamer, the armchair pilot and the Captain of tomorrow's spaceship. It's history in black and white. The drawings presented herein are the works of master illustrators, such as Wylam, Nye, Larsen, Karlstrom, and others. It was a massive effort, and the drawings reflect countless hours of research and digging through the halls of history. In some cases, measurements were taken from the actual aircraft. In many cases there were no remaining examples of the aircraft. Obtaining the accurate dimensions of these aircraft was difficult, if not impossible. Where factory drawings and sketches were available, many differences in dimensions were found. To resolve this dilemma, a best-guess approach was used. But it was an educated guess.

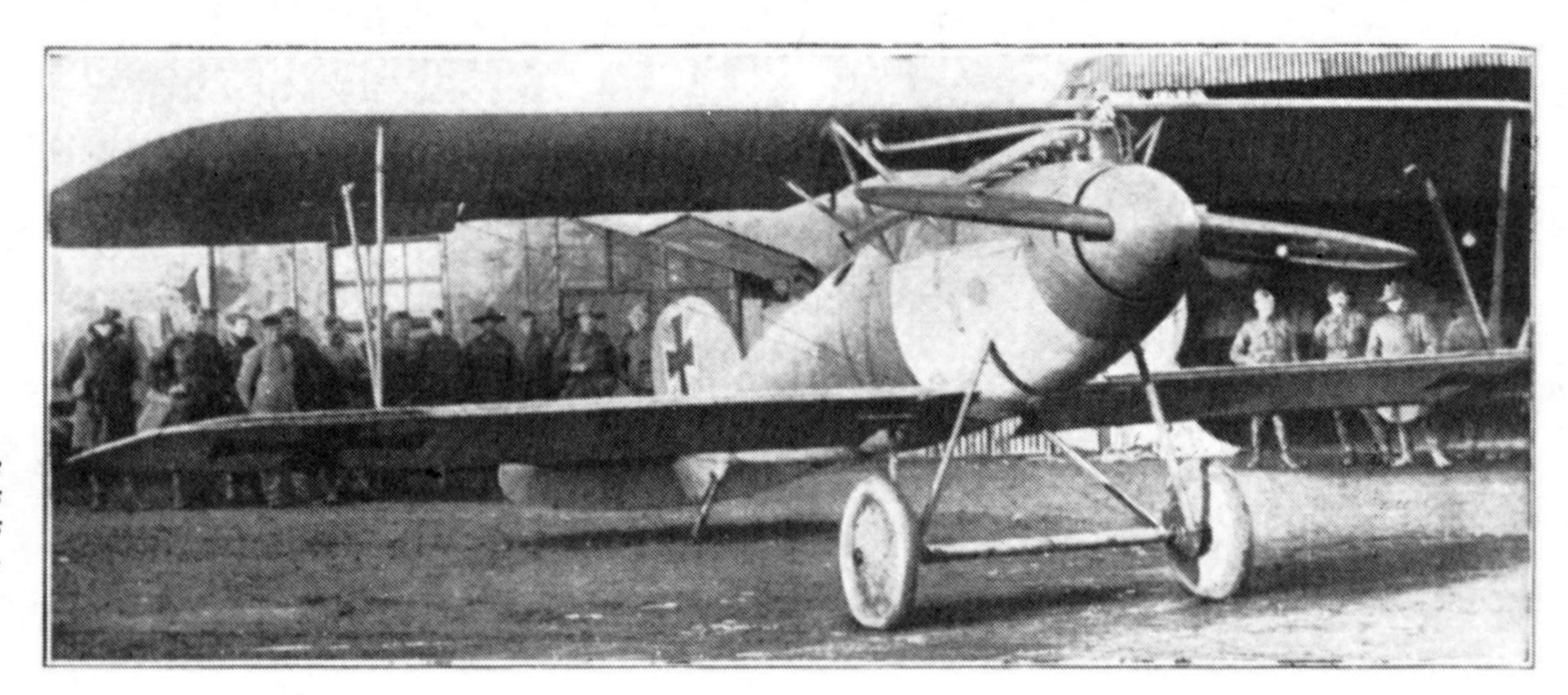
Some errors, a few major and some minor, are noted in the text. Modelers and enthusiasts should check them carefully against available photographs before undertaking major projects. A lot of technical material has been uncovered in the last 30 years that was not available to these draftsmen.

It should be noted that the scale reference given in the title block of each drawing does not reflect the scale size of that drawing. All of the drawings in this book have been reduced for presentation and are available from us in their full-size to the appropriate scale. These Master Drawings were rendered in varying scales.

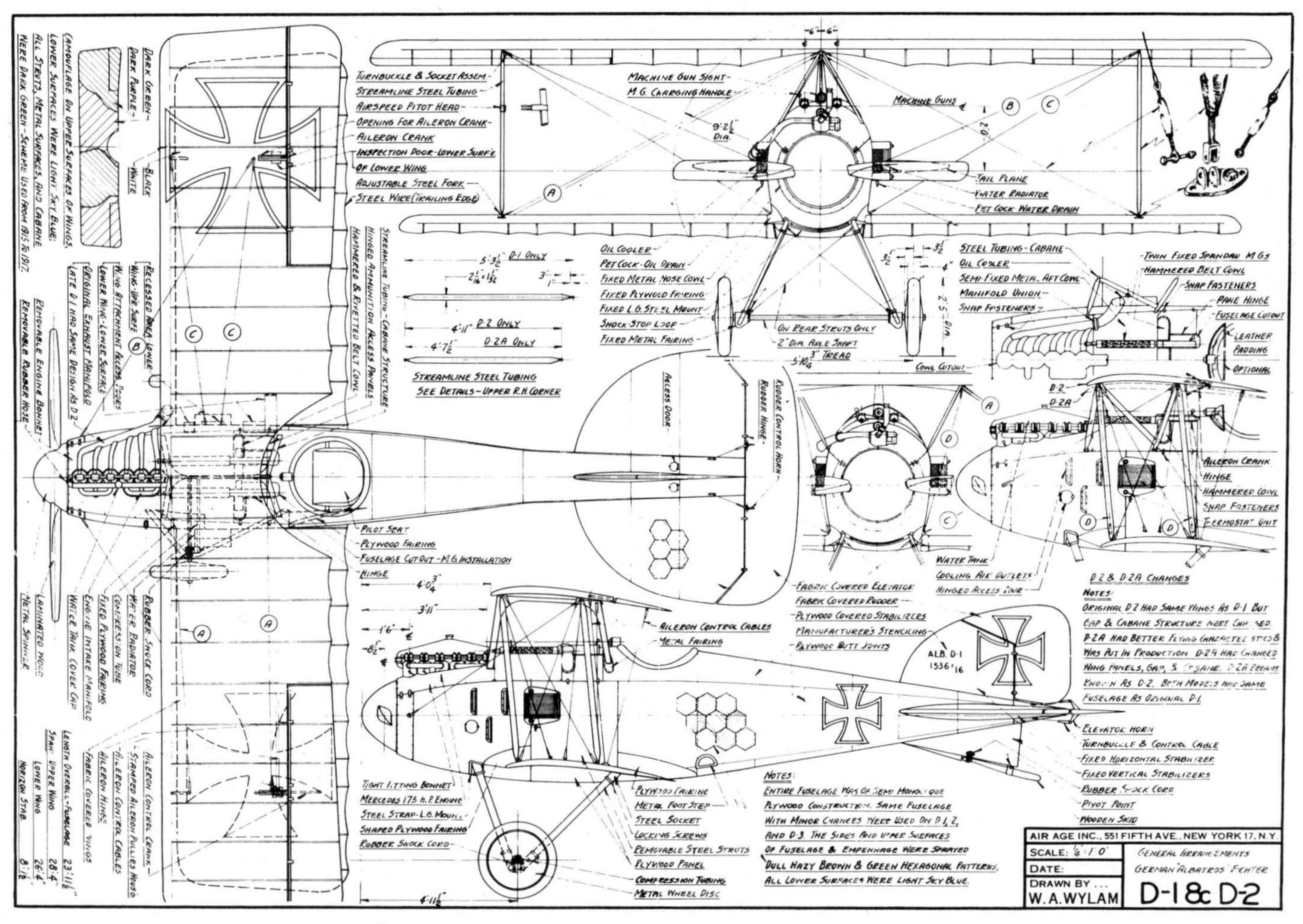
For the scale modeler, this book is invaluable. For the historian, it's a collector's dream. For the aviation-minded, modeler or not, it's a fascinating collection of winged history. We hope you enjoy it.

## Albatros D.I to D.VI

drawings by WILLIAM WYLAM



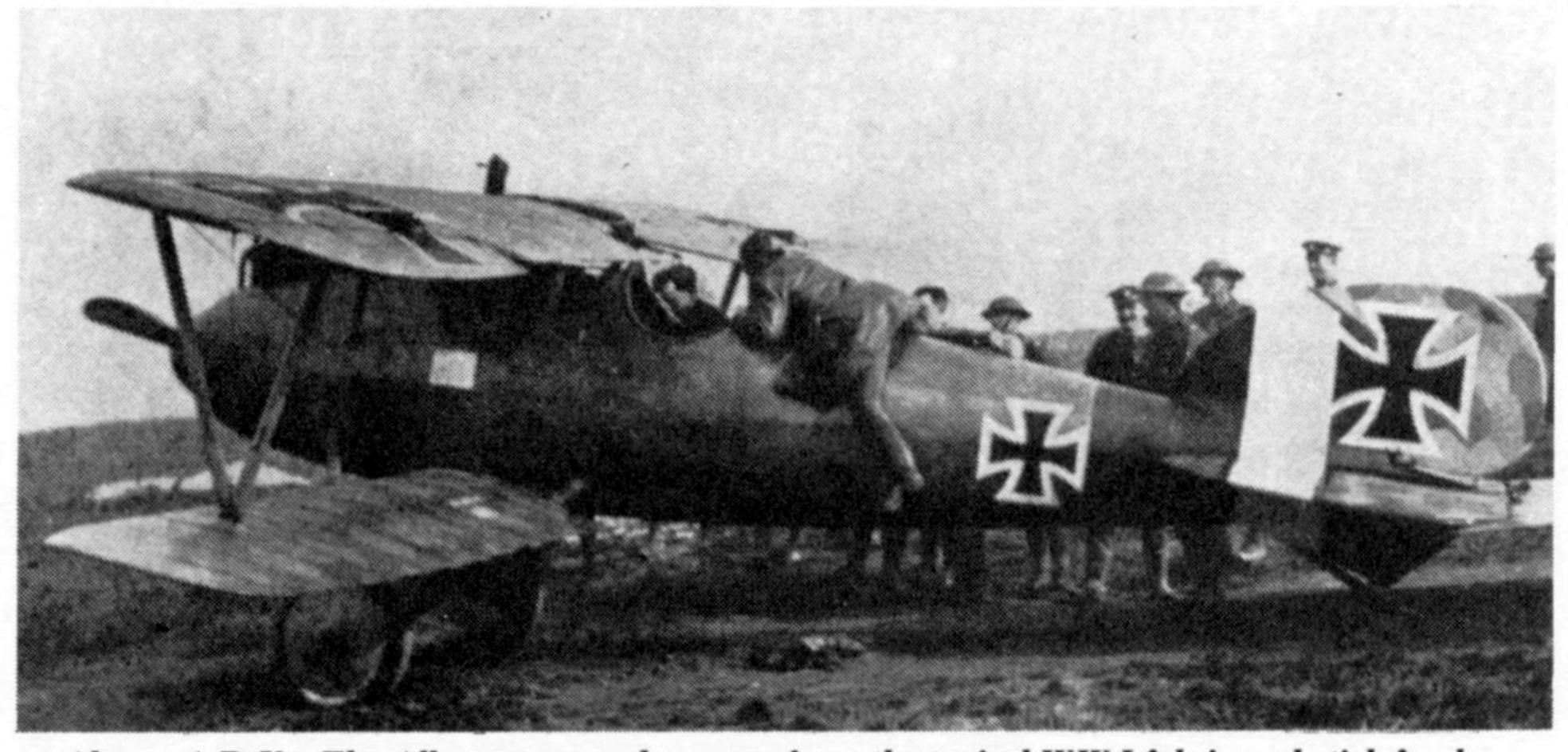
Front view of the Albatros D.V. "Jane's All the World's Aircraft" photo.



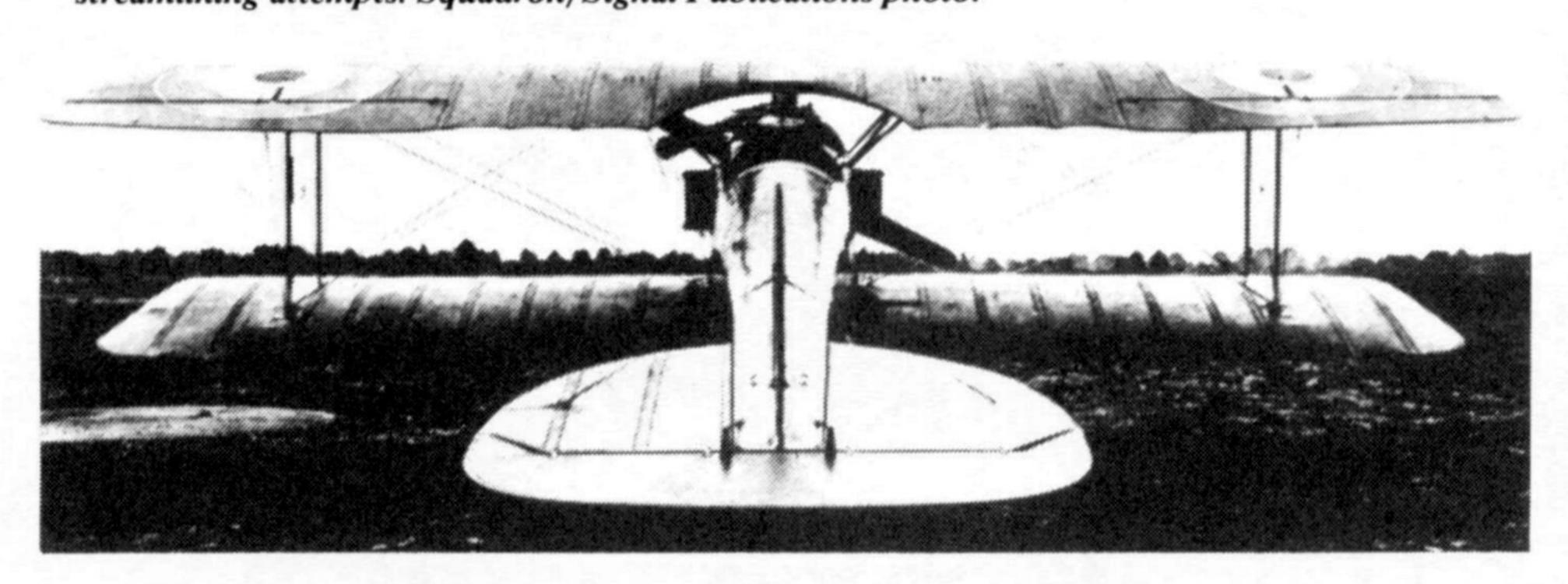
### Albatros D.I to D.VI

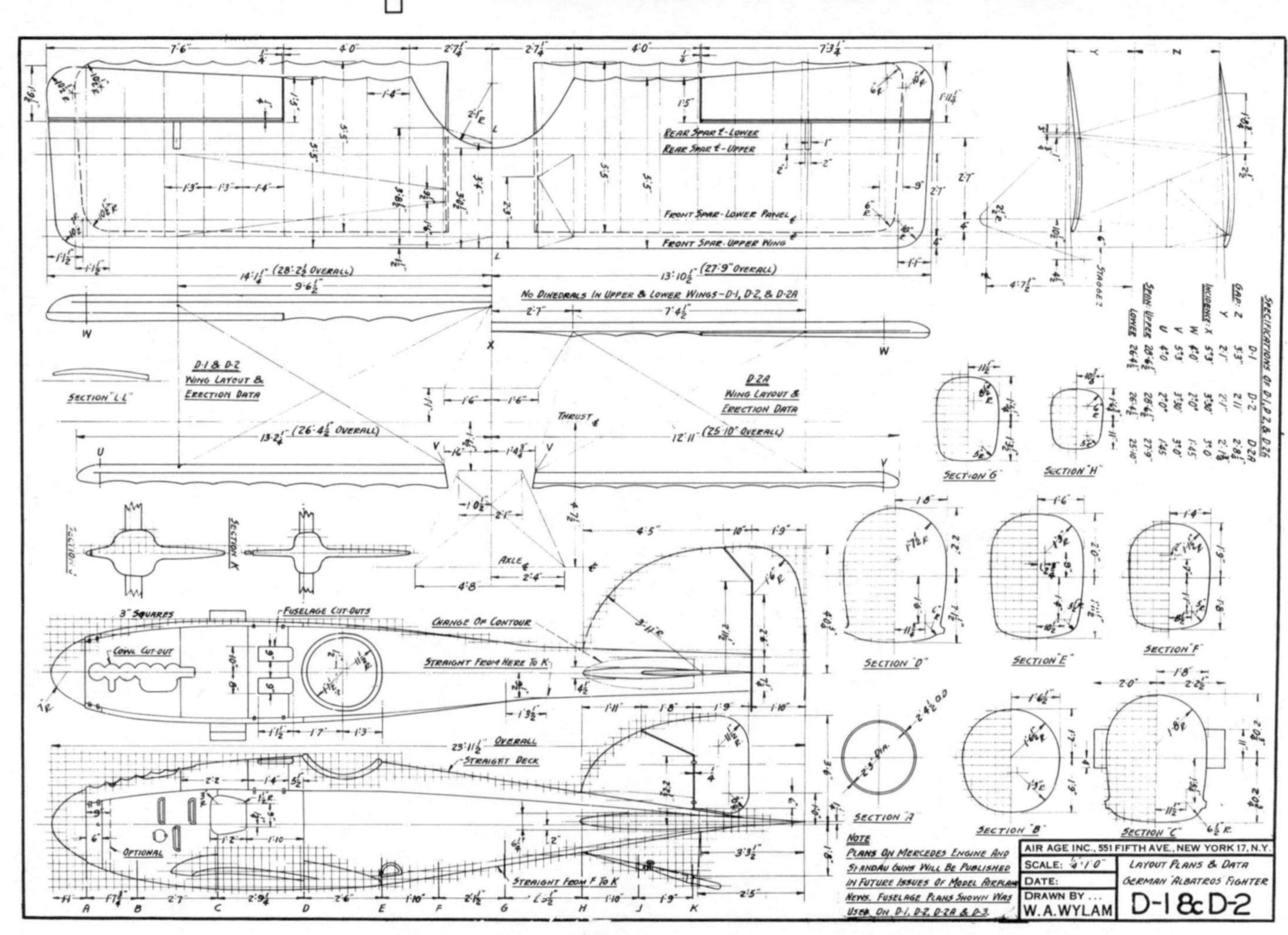
THE ALBATROS was introduced in April 1916 by the Albatros Werke, a manufacturing plant and civil flying school with excellent aero credentials, in the town of Johannisthal near Berlin. The Albatros was the mainstay of German airpower during the entire first world war, although it was outclassed by faster British and French aircraft later in the war. The Albatros D.I made its combat debut on September 17, 1916, against an ill-fated flight of seven British F.E.2b pushers, resulting in the loss of five of the pushers and no loss to the Germans.

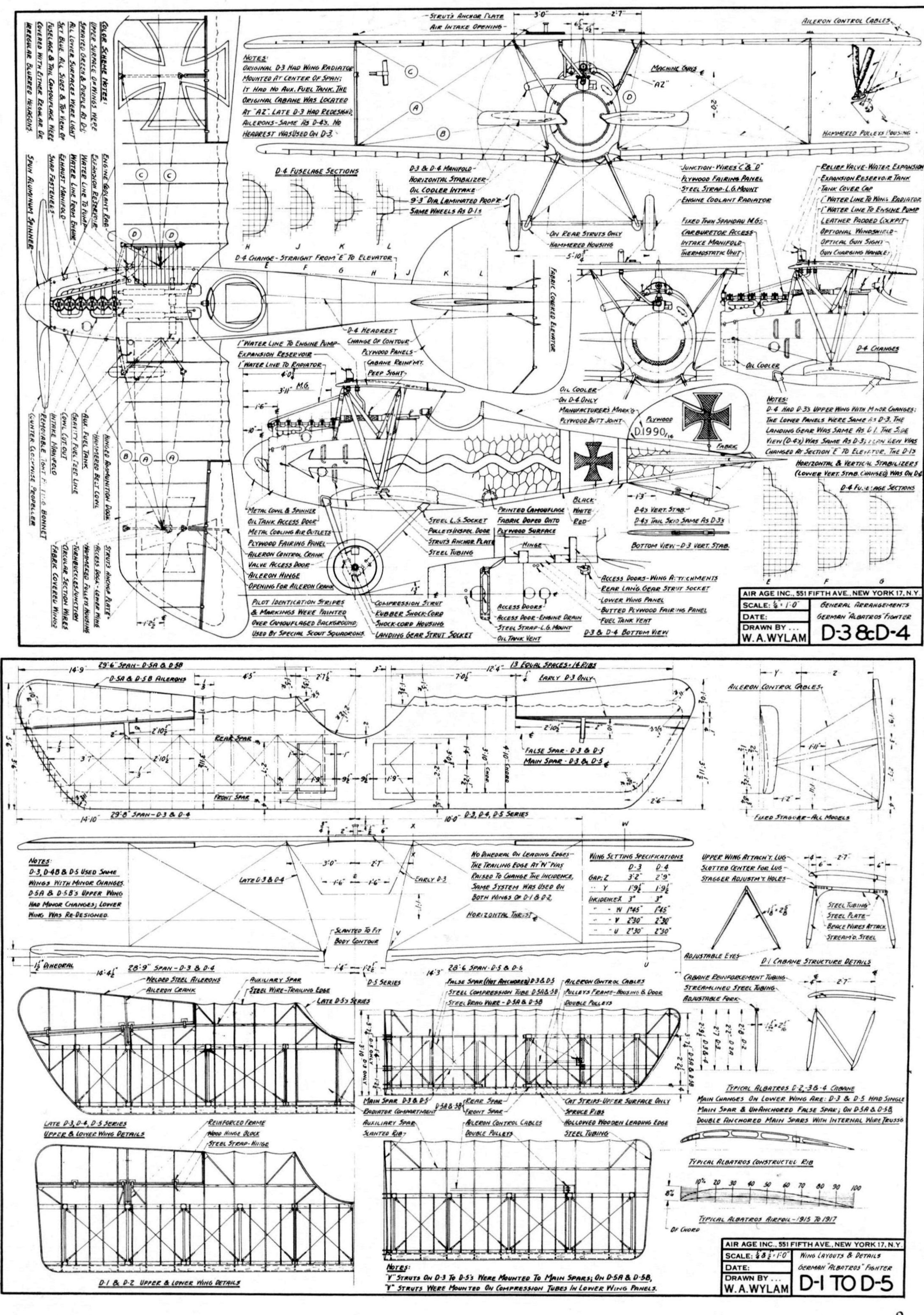
The D.1 immediately made every other fighter aircraft at the front obsolete. Development continued, however, which ended with the D.XII. The combat career of the Albatros did not end with the closing of WW I, but went into Polish and Czechoslovakian units. Two survive, both D.Va's; one at the National Air & Space Museum, the other in Australia.

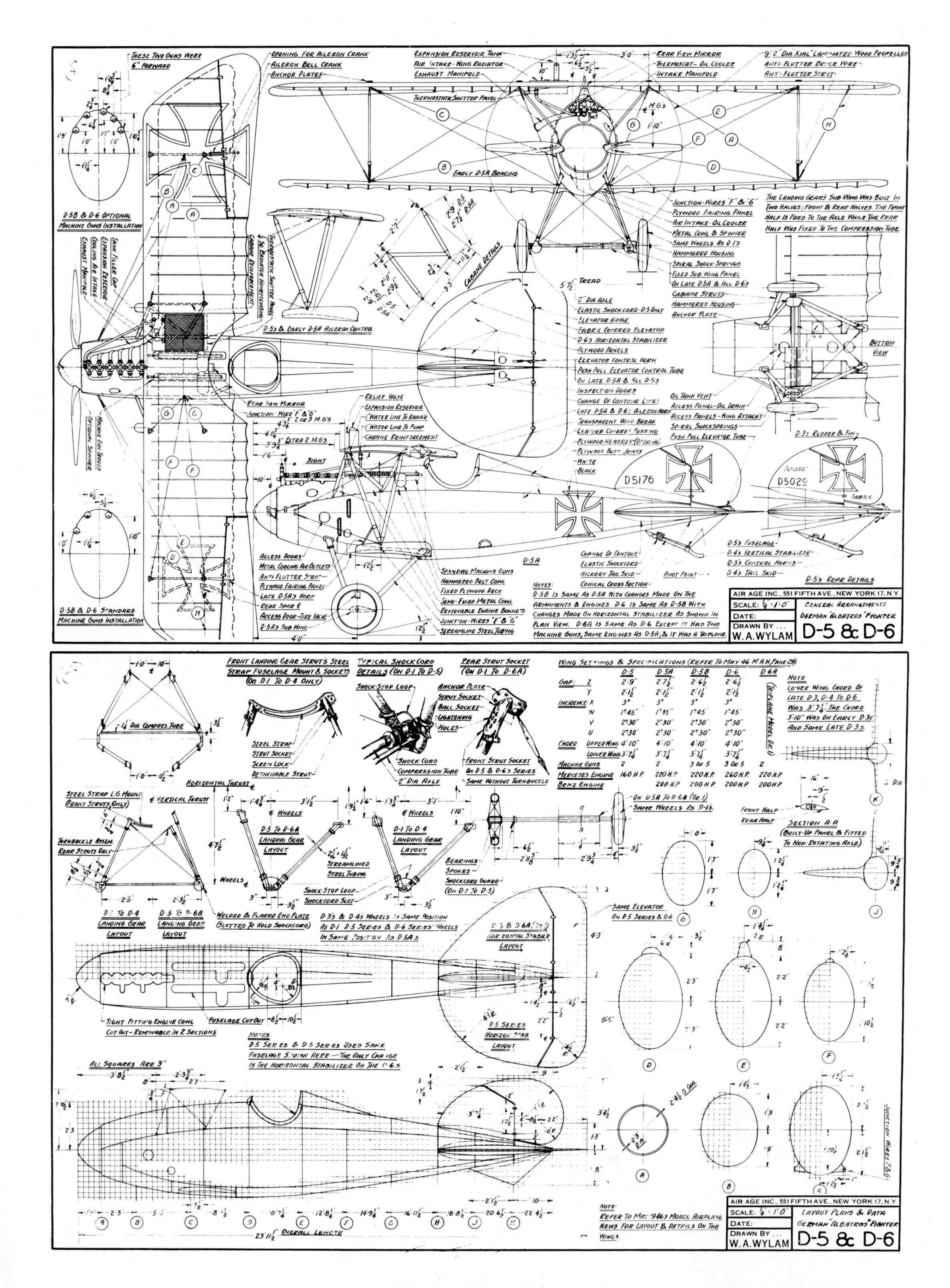


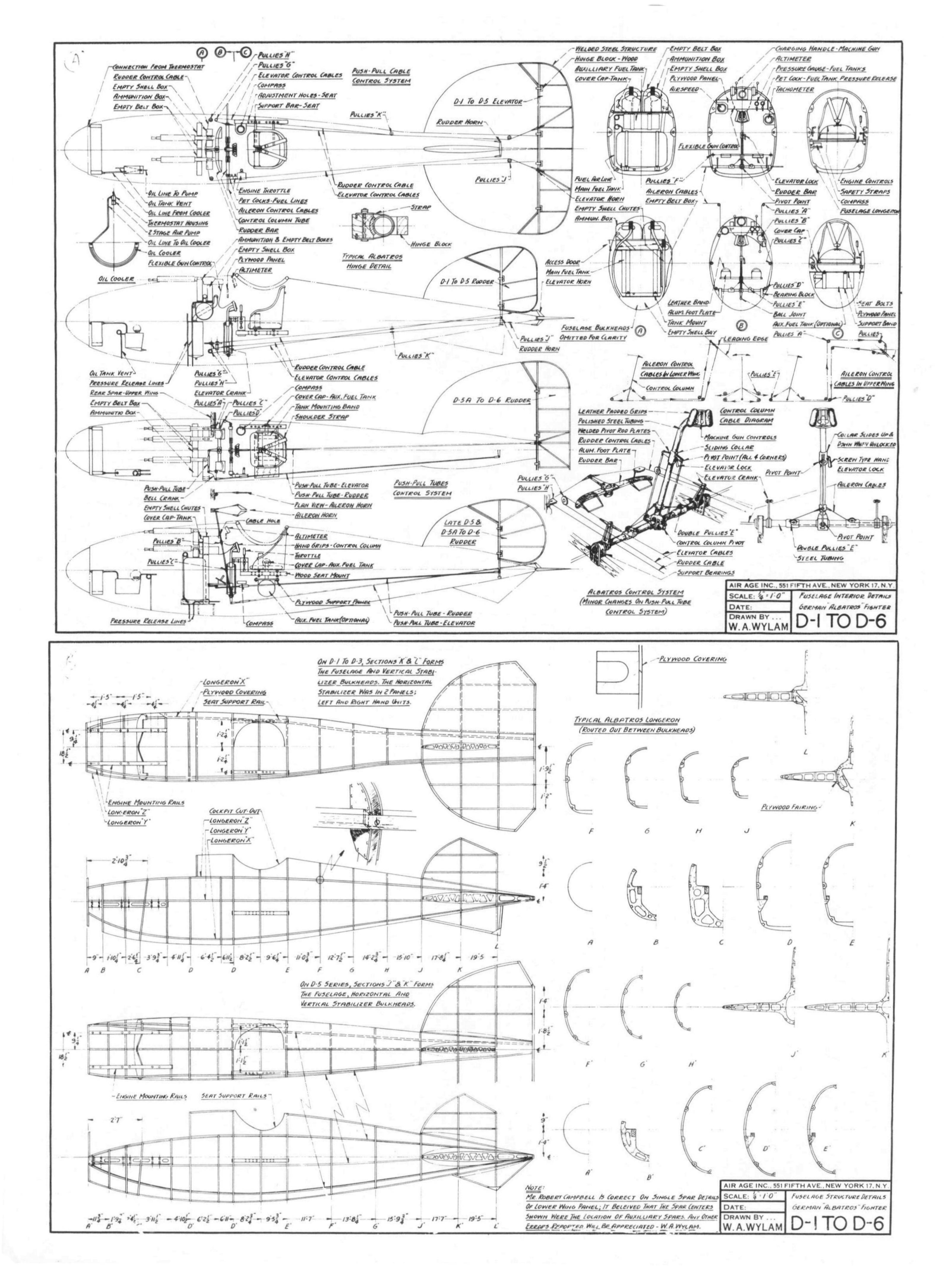
Above: A D.Va. The Albatros was a departure from the typical WW I fabric-and-stick fuselage and utilized advanced streamlining techniques for the times. "Jane's All the World's Aircraft" photo. Below: A captured Albatros D.III bearing RAF markings is another example of German streamlining attempts. Squadron/Signal Publications photo.





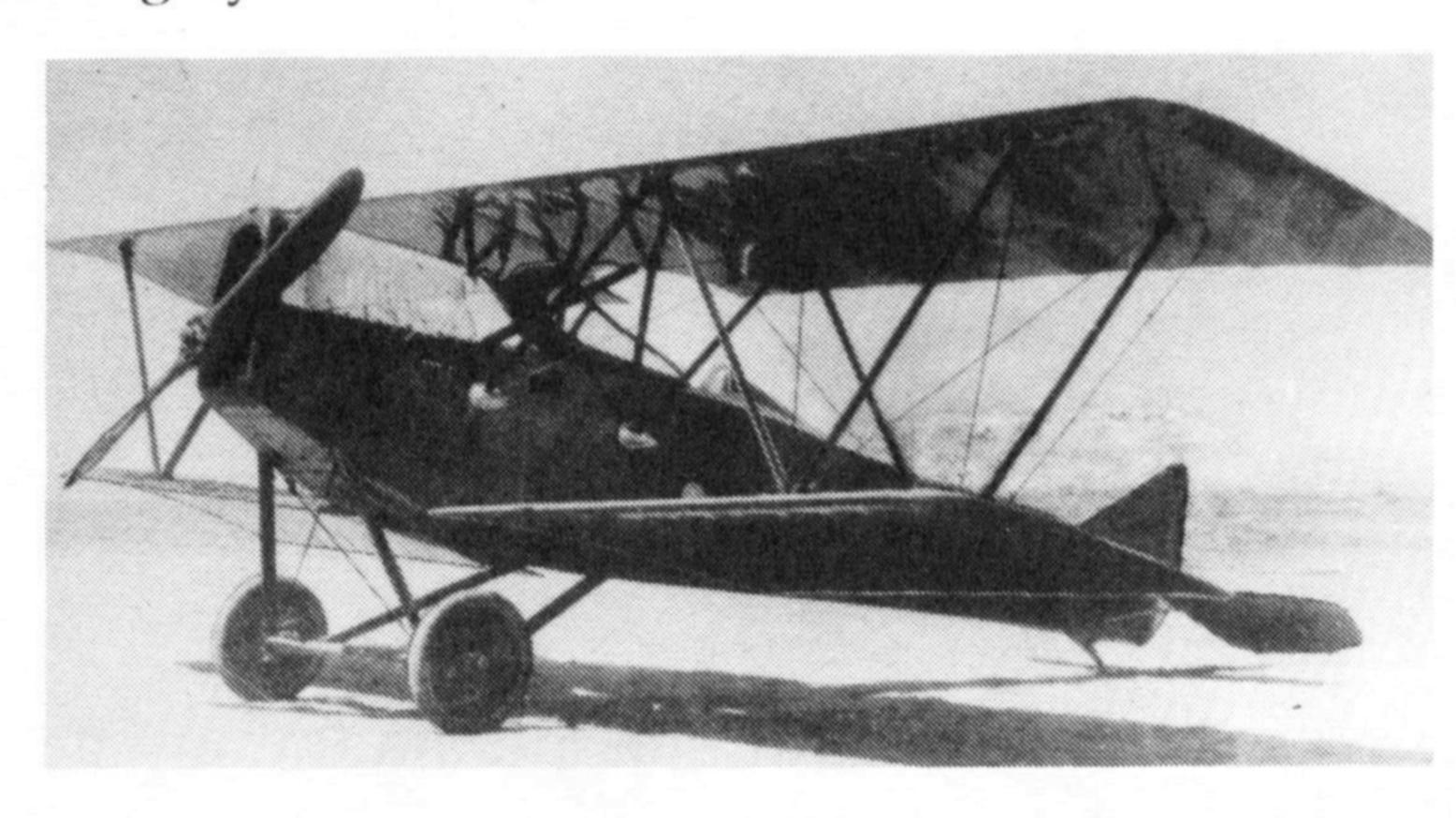






## Ansaldo sva-1

drawing by WILLIS NYE



Ansaldo SVA-4 was nearly identical to SVA-1. Note extra strut in center section bracing. Robert Hare photos from Air Age file.

ALTHOUGH little has been written of Italy's contributions during the first world war, the record is an amazing one. Italy's aerodynamicists were numbered among the world's finest, her factories were efficient, and Italian designs were definitely first class.

One of the largest companies was a firm known as "Societa Gio Ansaldo" of Genoa. To guarantee consistent quality, the firm established a testing program virtually unheard of during that period. In-plant testing and inspections were more critical than any contemporary

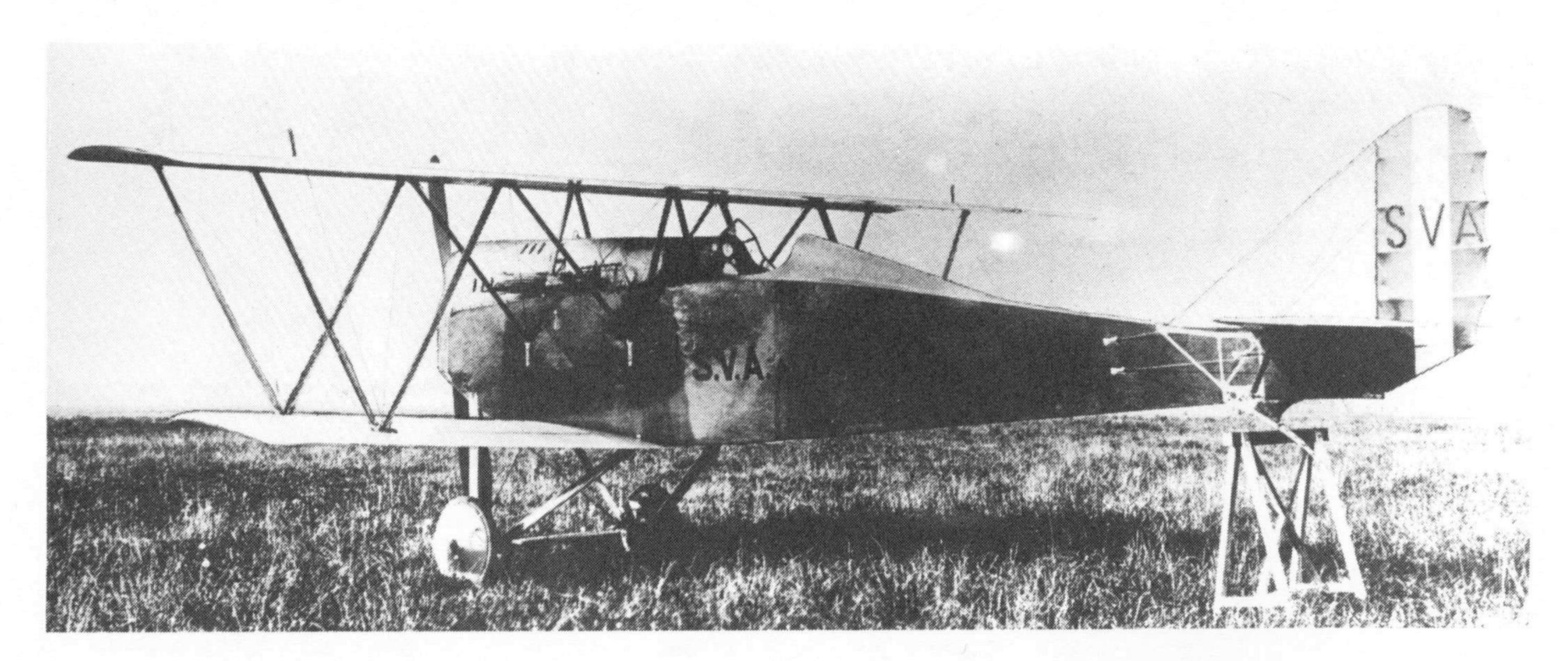
manufacturer had even thought of. From these facilities came the famous S.V.A. series of fighter and bomber aircraft.

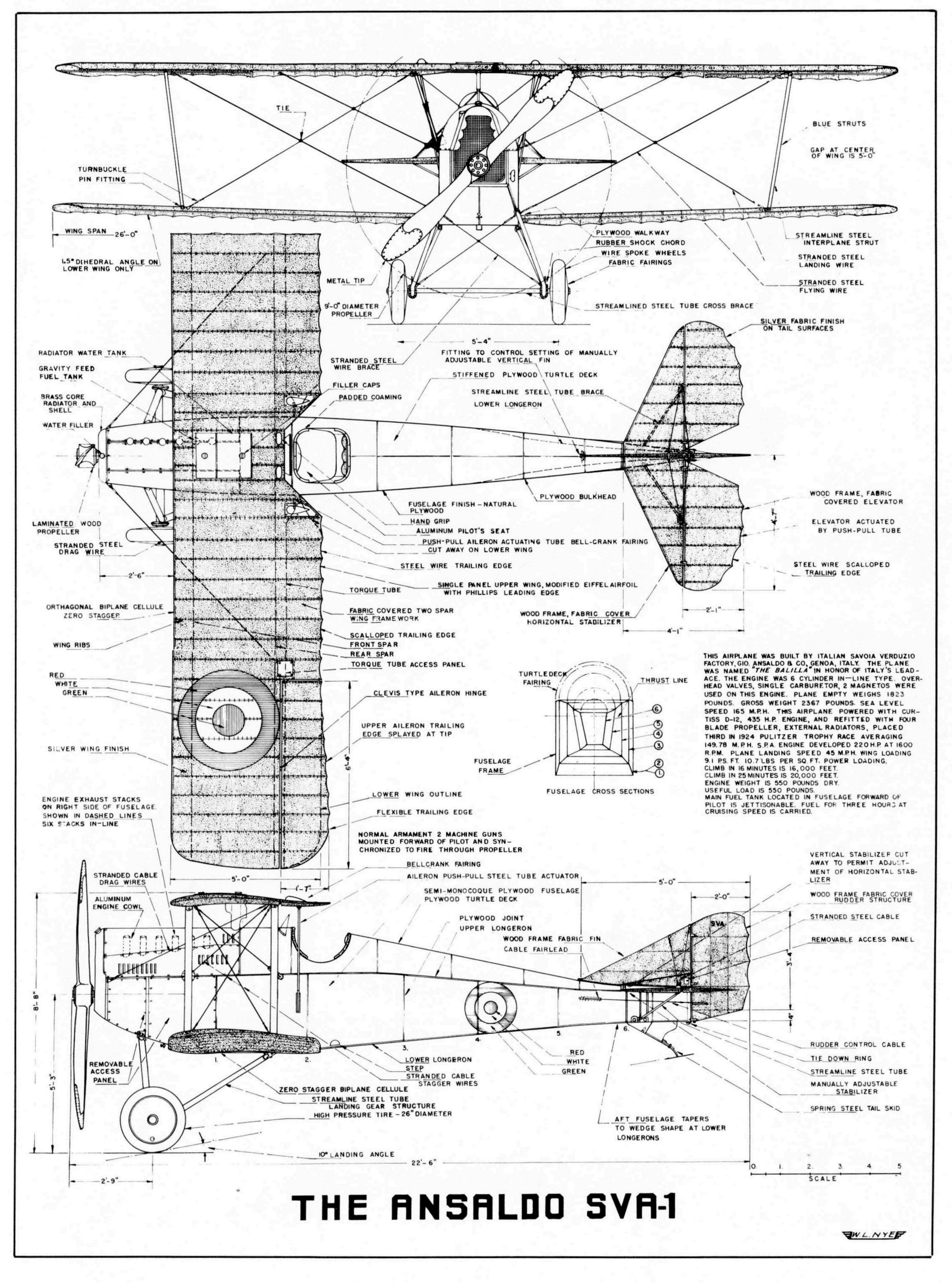
Fitted with a six-cylinder, water-cooled vertical-type engine that developed 225 hp at 1,700 rpm, the aircraft was suited to roles of both fighter and bomber. Altogether six models of the basic S.V.A. design are known to have been built, and of these three were exclusively single-seat fighters, two were listed as "escort" types, and one was fitted out as a single-seat bomber. Only the S.V.A.-4 and -5 reached true production status.

Operationally, the S.V.A.-4 and -5 were a distinct success. Nearly all Italian pursuit squadrons were fitted with the fighter version toward the war's end, while four bomber squadrons were entirely-4 equipped. They regularly took on missions of up to 700 miles round trip, which were completed in less than seven hours. Because of their versatility, the -5 fighters were often fitted with bombs for shorter range work and with extra fuel to escort the bombers.

A curious feature of Ansaldo aircraft, as well as other Italian aircraft up through WW II, was that the left-hand wings were longer than the right-hand wings to help overcome torque. Most drawings, including Nye's, do not show this.

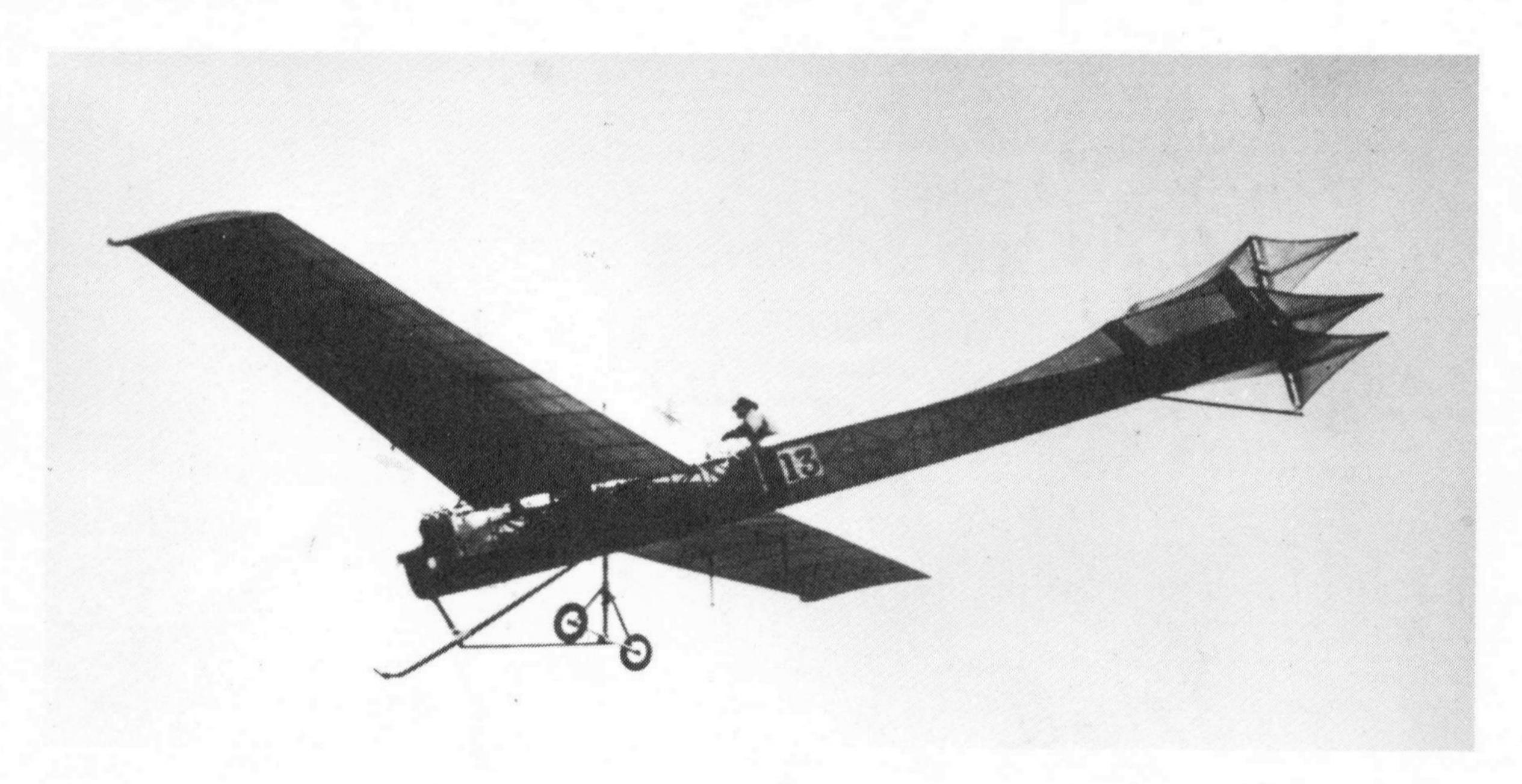
The S.V.A. team was a formidable weapon deserving of an everlasting place in aviation's Hall of Fame. Seven survive, five in Italy and two in the U.S.





### Antoinette vii

drawing by WILLIS NYE



Leon Levavasseur and Jules Gastambide began building airplanes in 1903; the first successful design, Model IV, flew in 1908. Herbert Latham used it, much modified, in his first cross-Channel attempt, and the Model VII on his second: both efforts ended in the water. Most of the Antoinette designs were heavily modified: the two photographs on this page, and Nye's drawing, are all of the same machine.

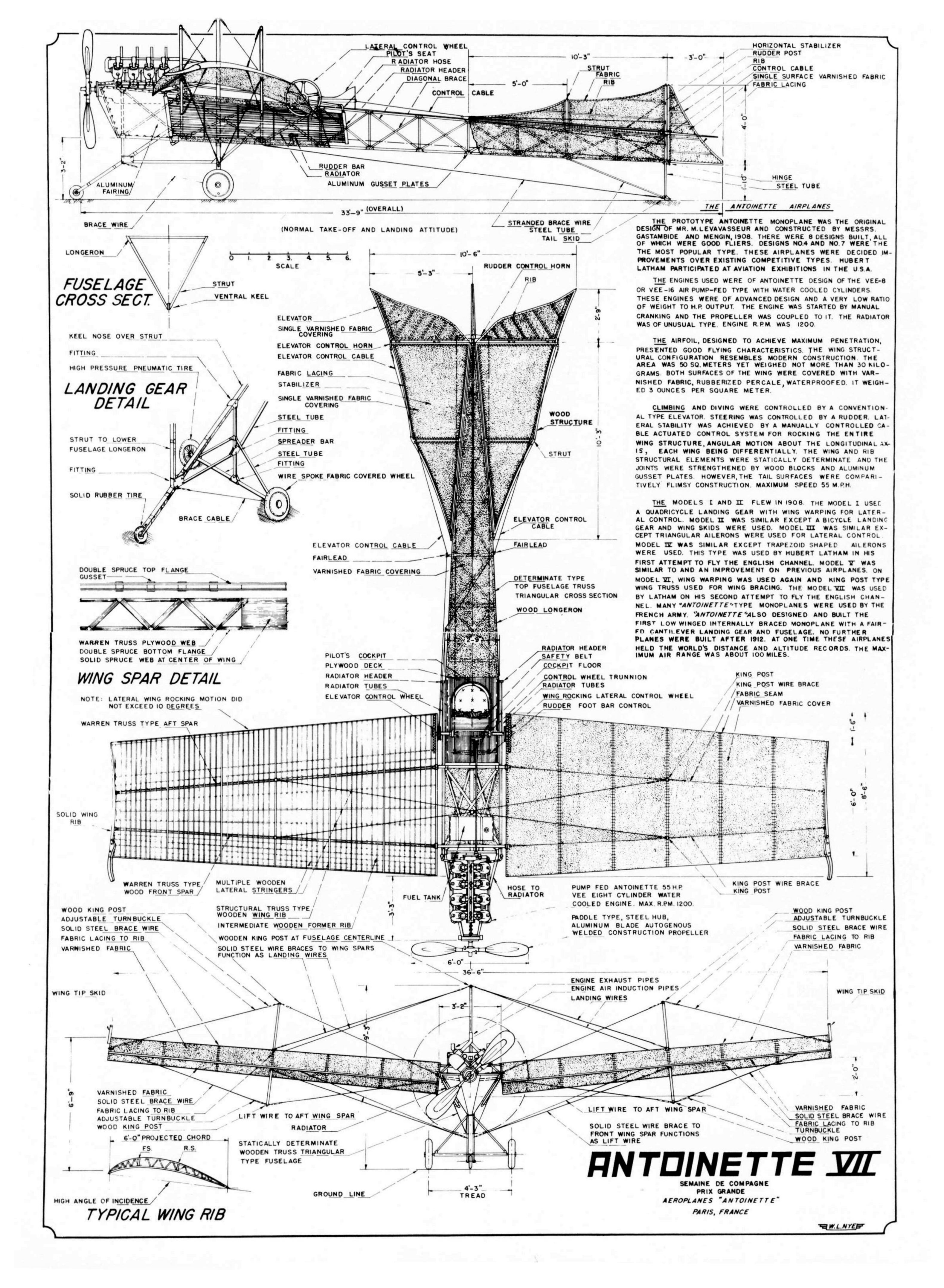
The designs were fast and stable: Latham later flew his Model VII, repaired and dried out, over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in 1911. He was observed on the occasion by Willis L. Nye, our draftsman.

The firm also built the Monobloc, the first internally-braced low-wing monoplane, in 1910: it was too heavy to fly. Three Model VIIs were lent to the U.S. Navy by Harry Harkness, and two of them appear in photographs of the Curtiss training school at North Island, in California.

Three Antoinettes are left, one in London, one in Paris, and one in Krakow, in Poland.



The advancement in aircraft design exhibited here in 1908 was quite revolutionary. Note rudder and elevator control surfaces. The entire wing panels were moved for lateral control. Photos courtesy of Leonard Opdycke, WW I Aeroplanes.



# Armstrong-Whitw

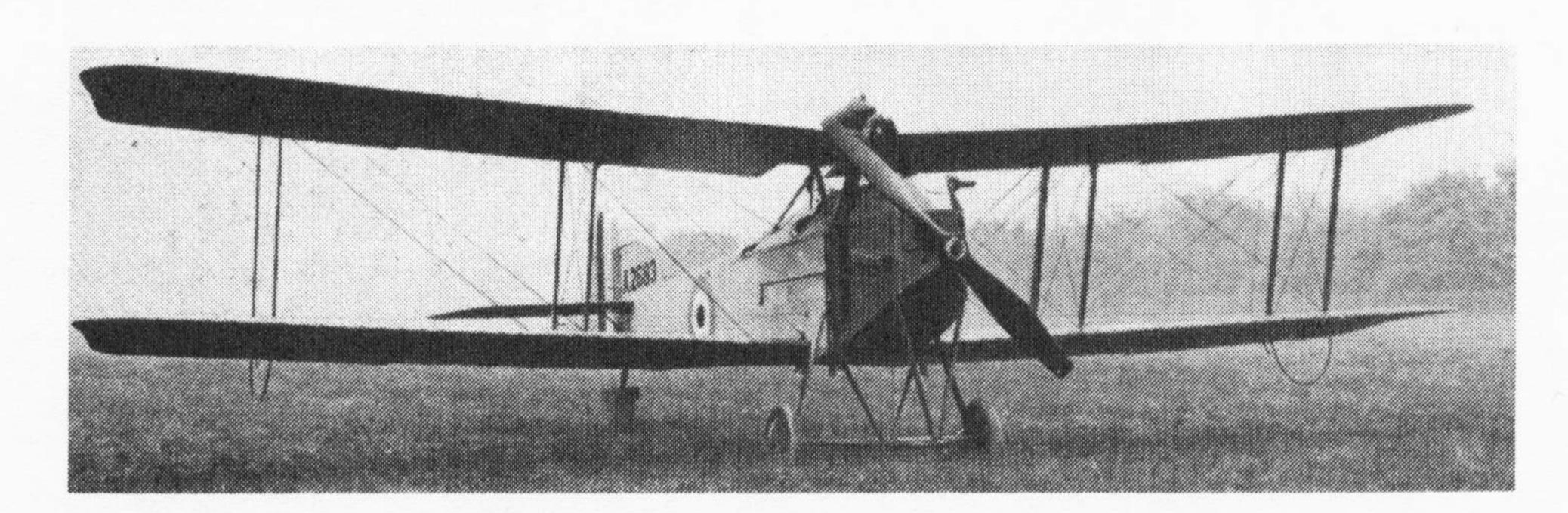
drawing by BJORN KARLSTROM

THE Armstrong-Whitworth F.K.8, designed by Mr. Frederick Koolhoven, was a heavier and an improved version of the F.K.3. It had a deeper fuselage, a slimmer type of undercarriage except that the central skid was cut short in front of the front V, and a 160-hp Beardmore engine. This machine was used to a large extent on various fronts of WW I for contact patrols, artillery spotting, light bombing, photography, and reconnaisance work up to the signing of the

Armistice.

About halfway through its active service life, the F.K.8 was slightly modified by having a V-type undercarriage fitted (at first from Bristol fighters, and when the stock ran low, from B.E.2c's, finally from Armstrong-Whitworth), and smaller radiators of improved efficiency installed. A long exhaust pipe was also added to carry the exhaust fumes well clear of the crew.

None survive.





With 120-hp Beardmore engine, the F.K.8 had a top speed of 85 mph. Developed by the British, this aircraft served notably throughout WW I. "Jane's All the World's Aircraft" photos.

### Specification.

Type of machine ... Two-seater Biplane. Name or type No. of machine Armstrong-Whitworth F.K.3. Purpose for which intended Sport and Training. 40 ft. Span 28 ft. 8 in. Overall length Maximum height.. .. 10 ft.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. Engine type and h.p. .. 90 h.p. R.A.F. Weight of machine empty .. 1,900 lbs. Tank capacity in hours ...  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

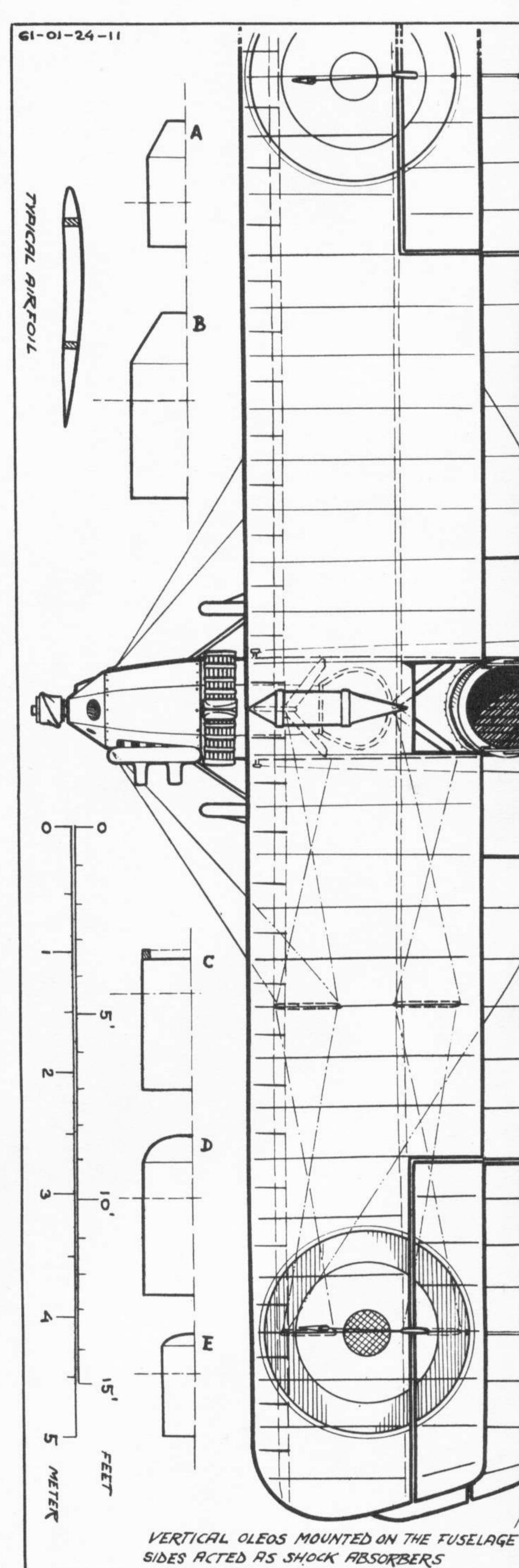
### Performance.

 Speed at 1,000 feet
 ..
 85 m.p.h.

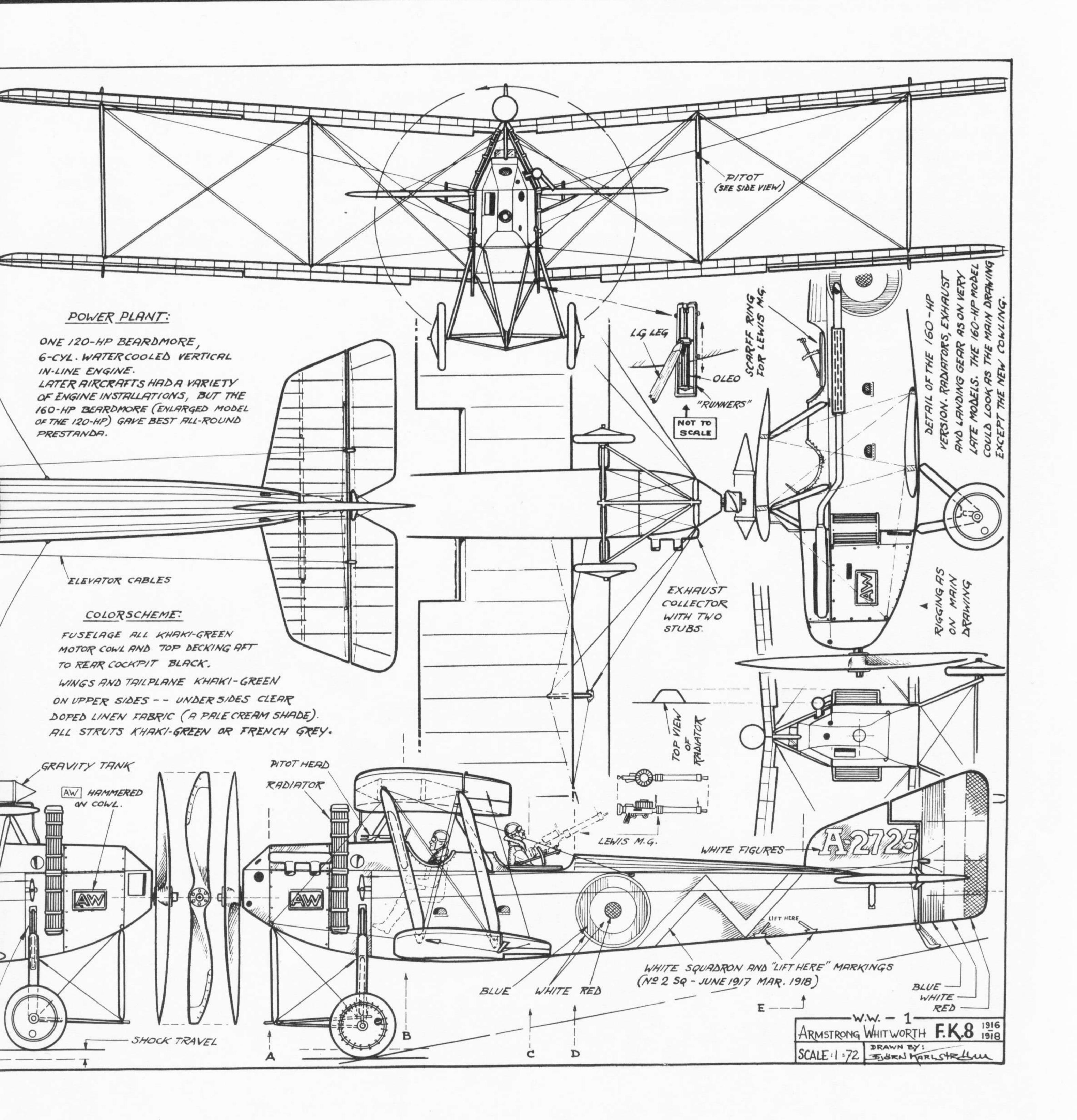
 Landing speed.
 ..
 38 m.p.h.

### Climb.

To 10,000 feet in minutes .. 23 minutes.



## orth F.K.8



## Bleriot XI

drawing by WILLIAM WYLAM

ONE of the epic flights of aviation history, probably equal in importance and impact to Lindbergh's flight, was Louis Bleriot's 22-mile flight across the English Channel in 1909. With this amazing feat, the French pioneer created a worldwide sensation and focused the attention of all civilization on the potential use of the airplane as a transportation vehicle.

The Bleriot XI was small and weighed only 660 pounds. Power was a three-

cylinder Y-type Anzani air-cooled engine that developed about 20 hp. The airframe was wood, with rubberized fabric covering. Lateral control was attained by warping the wings.

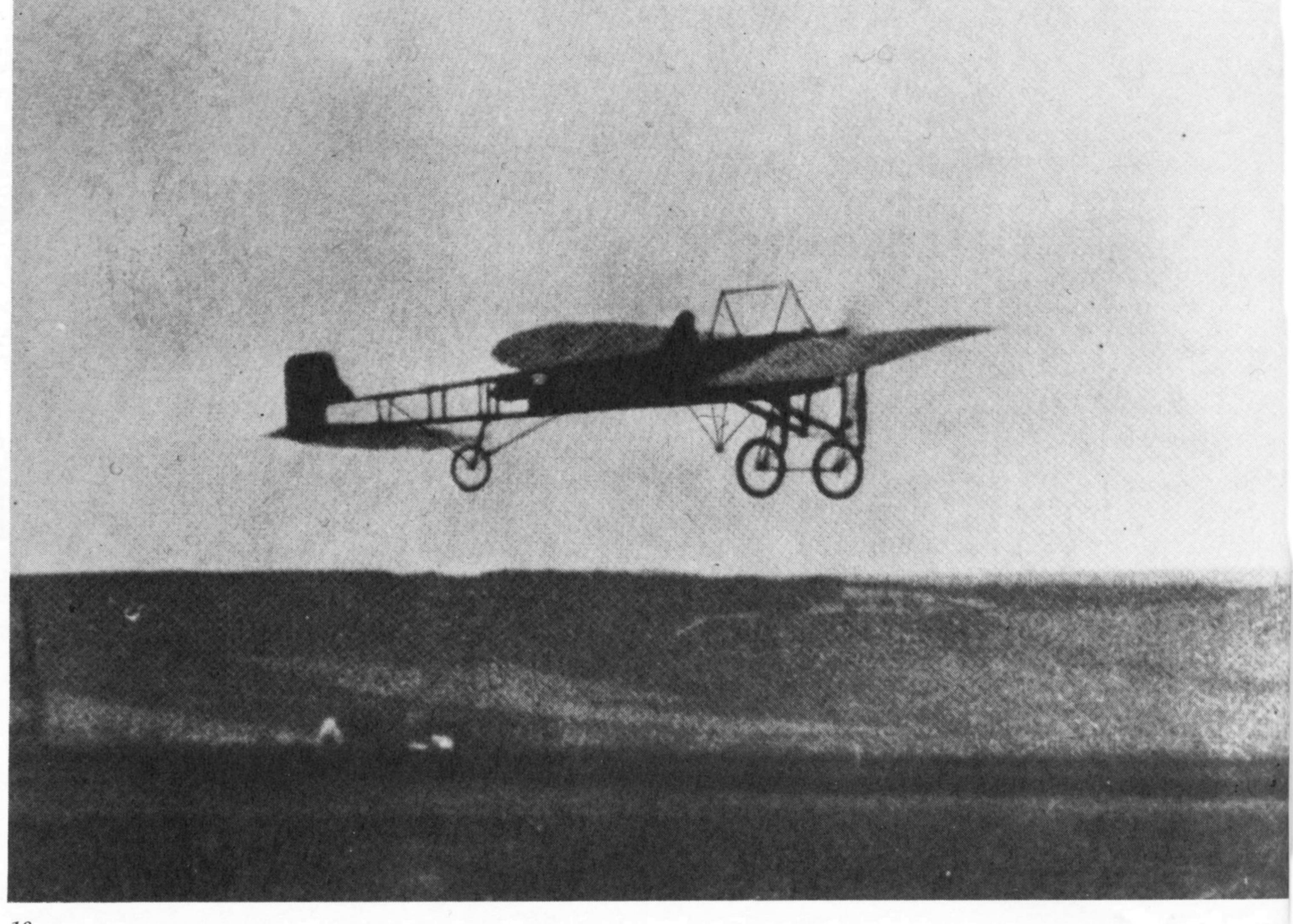
Sparked by an award of \$5,000 by the London Daily Mail for the first flight across the Channel, Bleriot was challenged for the award by Hubert Latham, a famous record-smashing pilot of that period. On Sunday, July 25, 1909, Louis Bleriot landed his plane near Dover

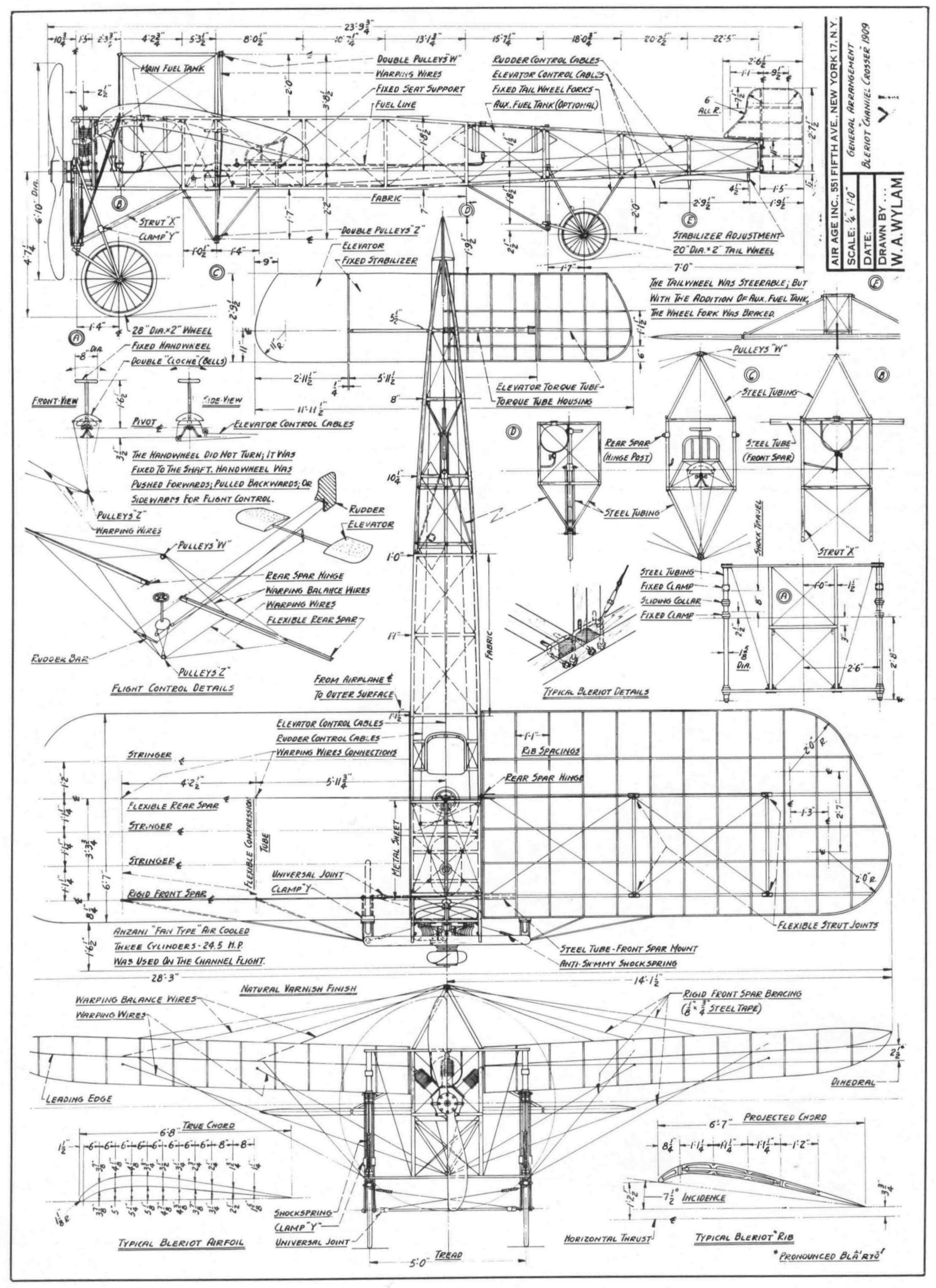
Castle, England, after crossing the Channel in less than one hour, a feat which garnered him over \$15,000 in prize money.

Many variants of the XI design were built by the Bleriot firm, including parasols and two-seaters. The photograph and Wylam's drawing show the aircraft Bleriot used to fly the Channel. Note the inflated bladder inside the fuselage.

Many Bleriot XIs are still around, in museums or privately owned.

An extremely rare photograph, this shot taken as Bleriot commenced his journey into history crossing the English Channel on Sunday, July 25, 1909. Air Age file photo.



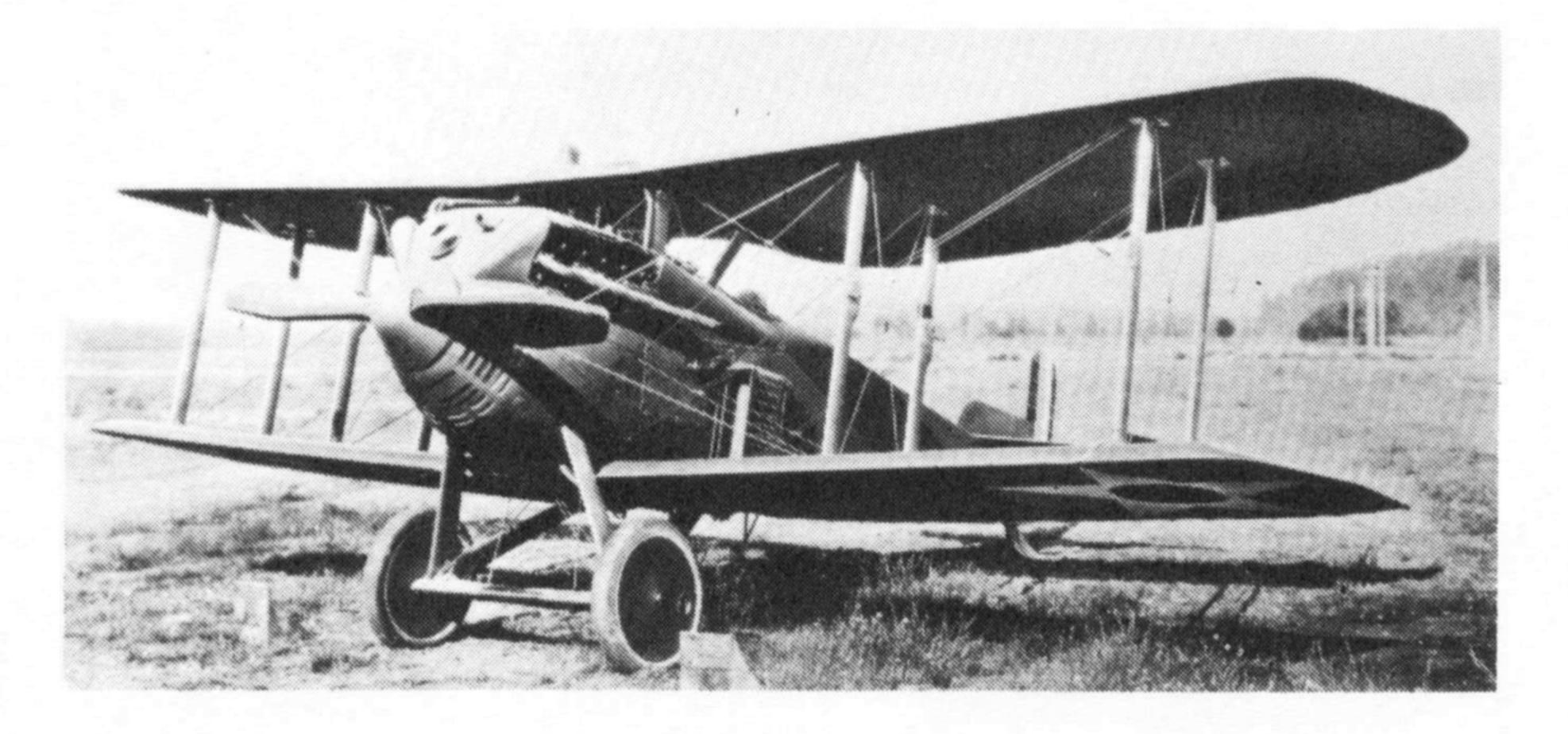


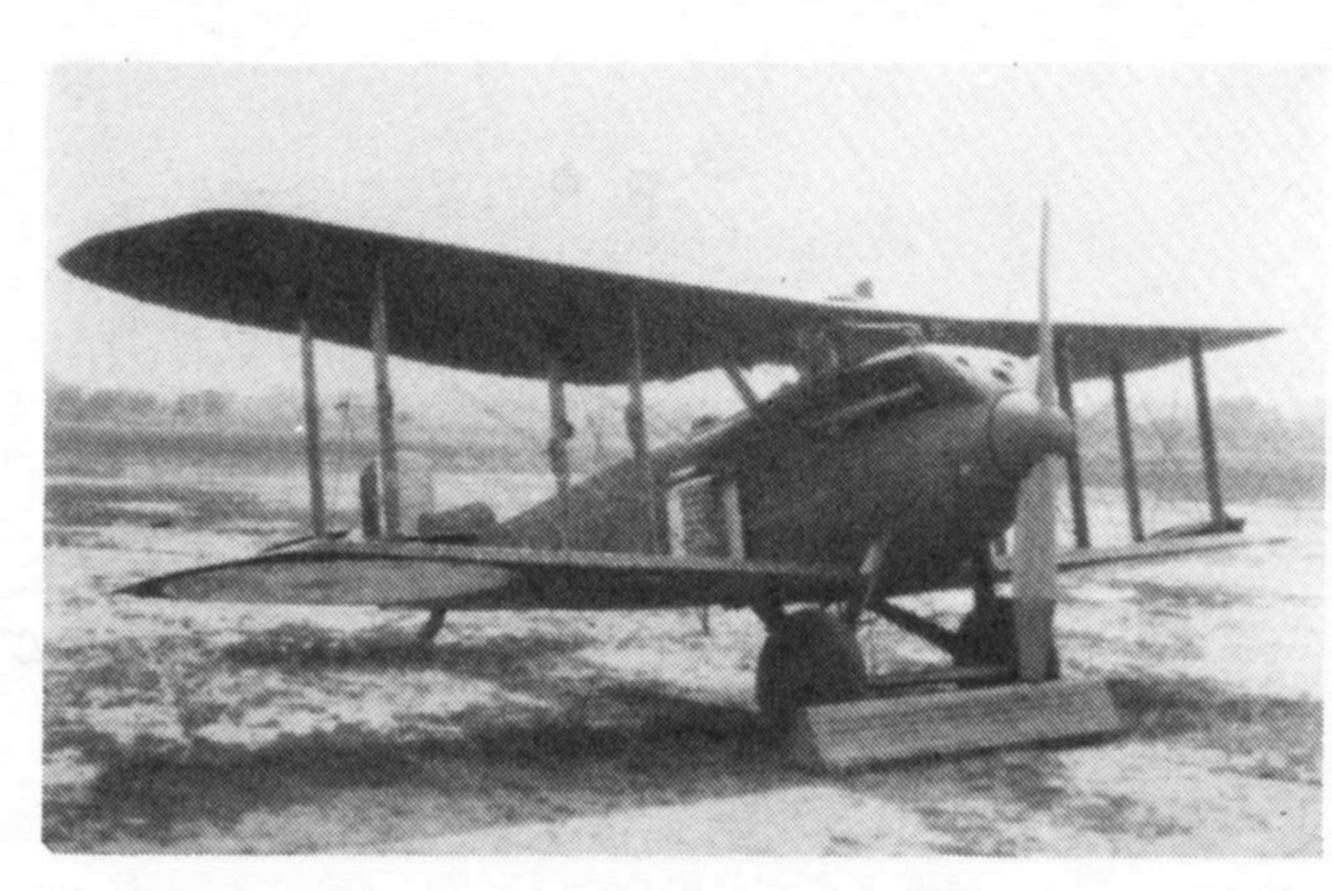
# Boeing MB-3A

drawing by JOSEPH NIETO

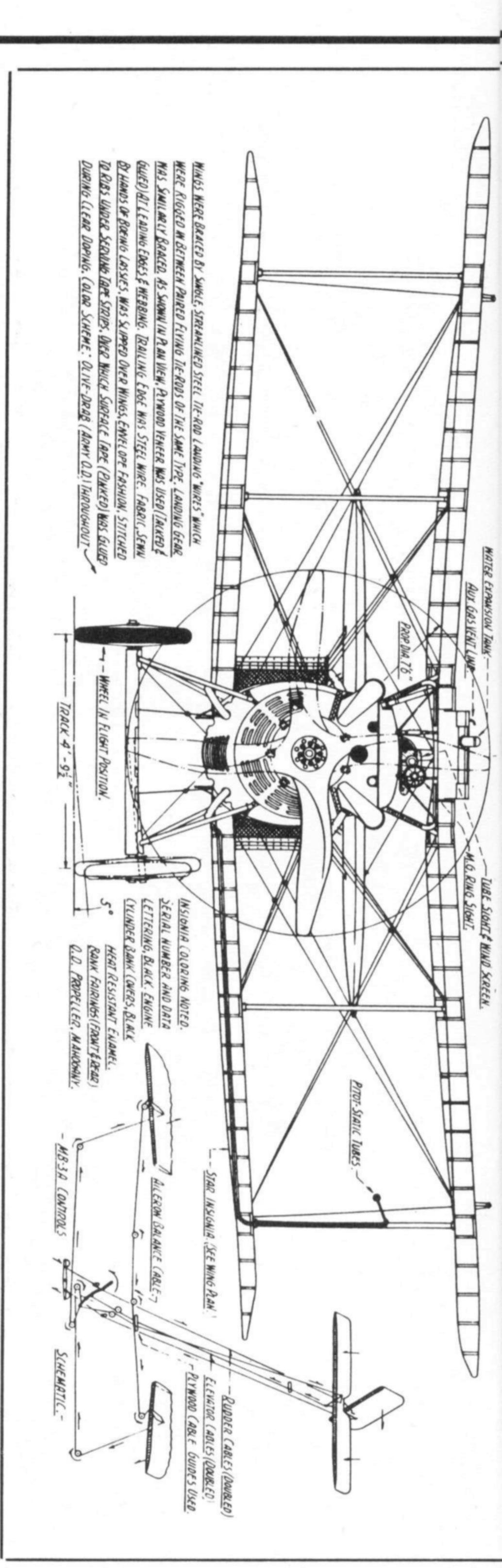
"IF THE WAR had lasted..." That was late to see service in the war. a common speculation among aircraft engineers and enthusiasts following the Armistice of WW I. Of course, no sane person of the period was genuinely in favor of continuing the European holocaust, but there was, after the fracas was all over, a somewhat nostalgic—and disappointed—feeling that swept over the American aircraft industry. The Thomas Morse Aircraft Co. had but one thing in mind with the MB-3: to equal, and possibly outperform any European plane of the same type. Designed in 1918, and not flown until February 1919, it was too

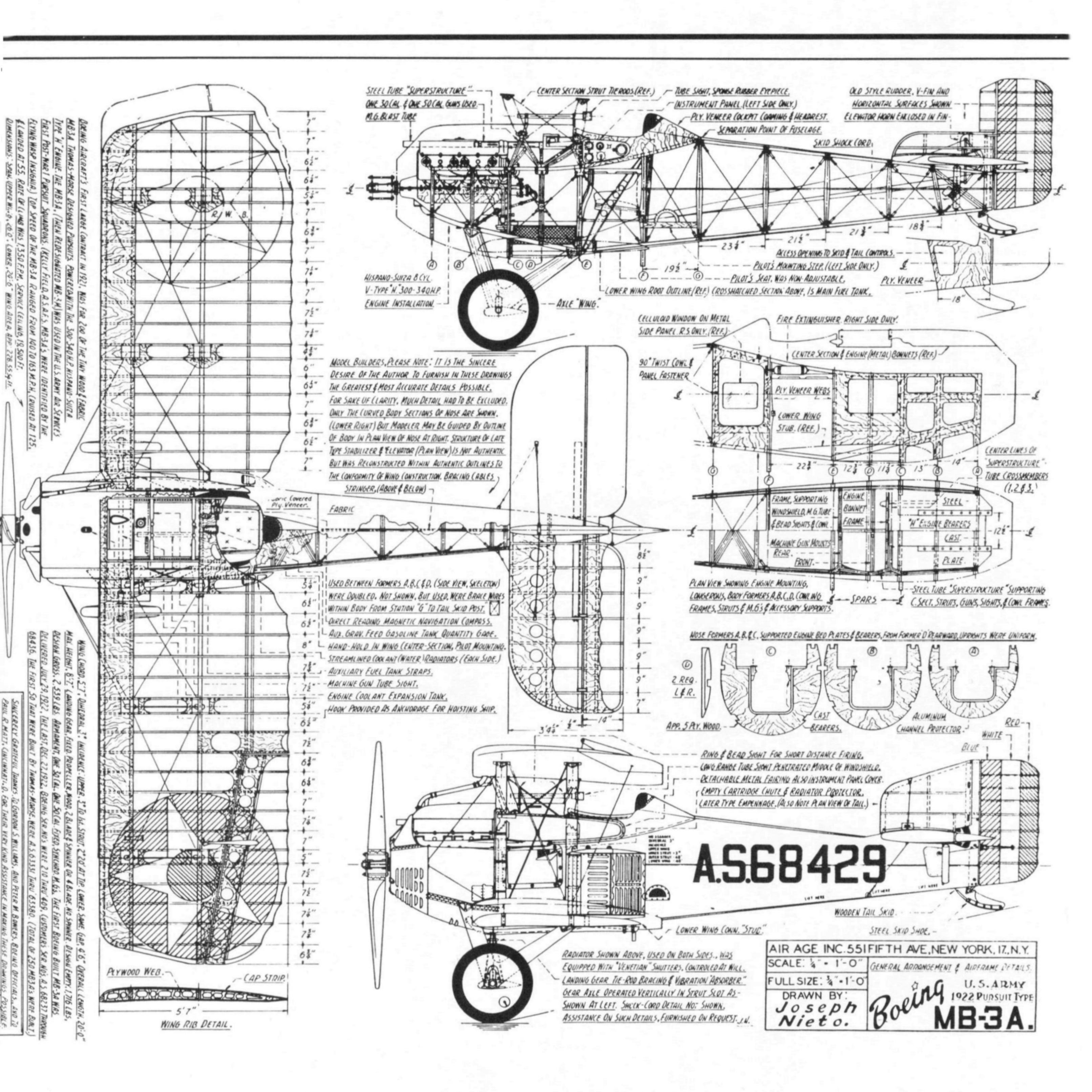
Boeing was contracted, along with Thomas Morse, to build the Thomas Morse design and the versions produced by Boeing were the MB-3A, which featured modifications to the control surfaces and empennage, among other changes to cowling and engine. The result was an airplane that, in its time, was equal to or better than anything in the air. Serving up until 1929, the MB-3A established Boeing as a quality craft builder at a time when the aviation business was really tough.





Top photo, "Pedigree of Champions, Boeing Since 1916." Left photo, "Chronicle of Aviation History in America."





### Bristol F.2B

drawings by WILLIAM WYLAM

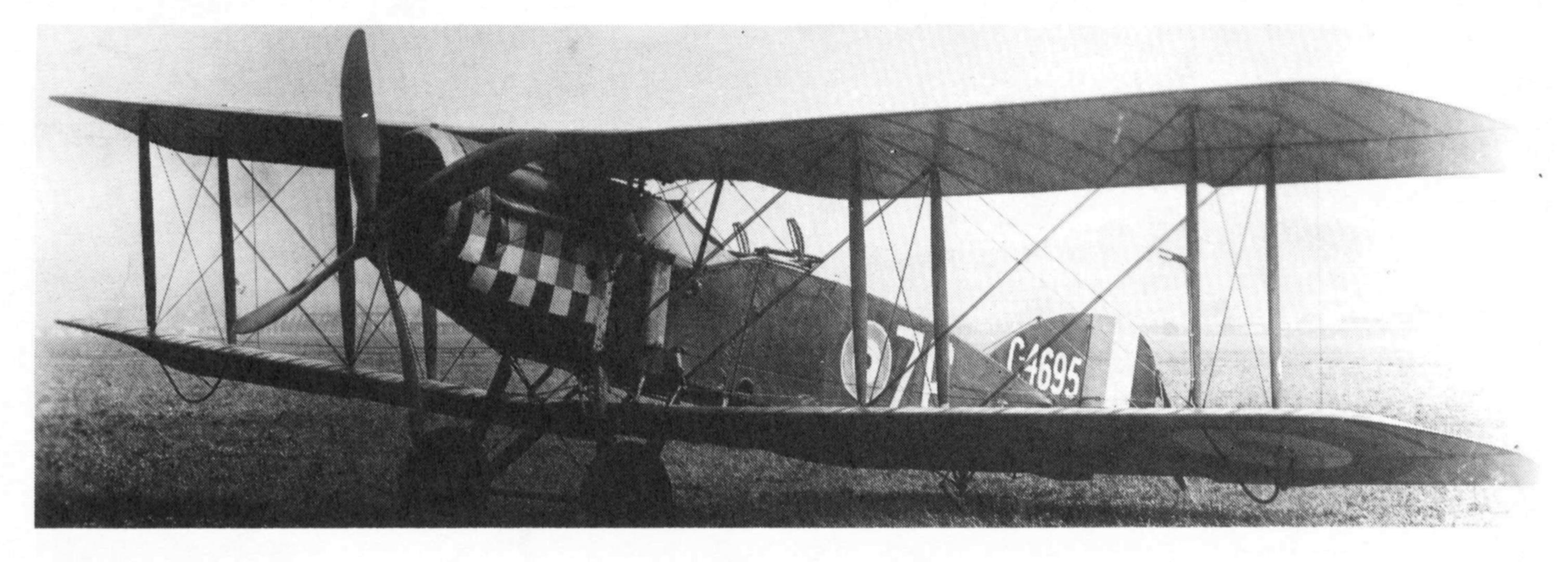
AN OUTSTANDING success in every role it was to play in WW I, the Bristol fighter, affectionately known as the "Brisfit," was described as a "pilot's airplane" by all accounts on file with the British Air Ministry. But its first appearance over the Front—six F.2A's—ended with four of them shot down, because their pilots had not yet learned to fly them like fighters instead of observation planes. When they did learn, in the middle of 1917, the Fighter began to replace the

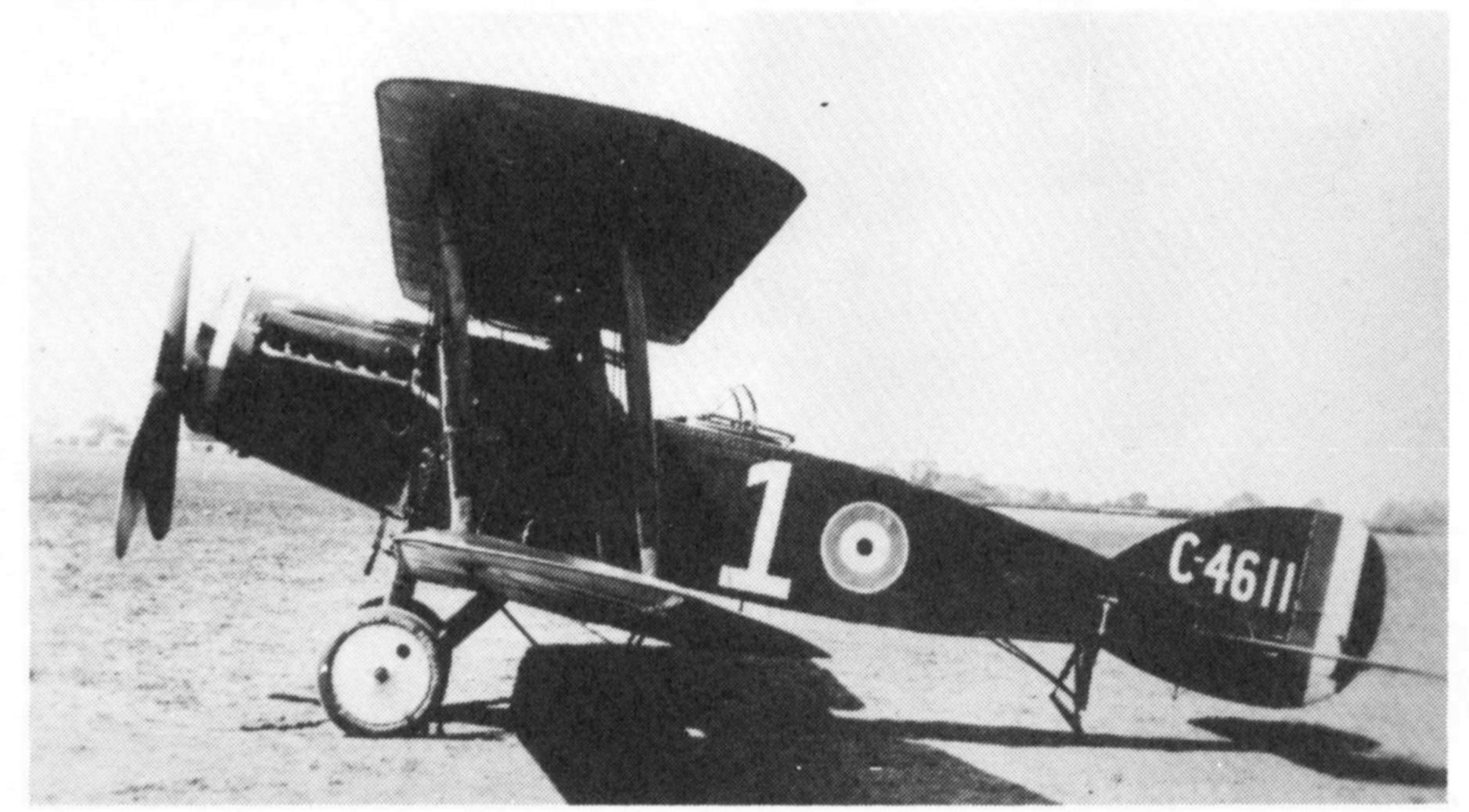
then-staged S.E.5. It didn't take long for stories about the F.2B's fighting ability to get around. A two-place airplane, the F.2B was a departure from pilots' prior experience and the acceptance of it was initially slow. The training methods, however, stressed the remarkable features of the airplane itself and the pilot-observer teamwork necessary to obtain the greatest possible effect. The result was to fulfill a specific function—fighting in the air.

The engine selection varied from 190 to

280 hp, depending on the job expected of the plane and its date of manufacture. Radiators were fitted accordingly and differed in shape and size. The F-2B was probably the only two-seater built during WW I that handled like a single-seater. It was maneuverable and as fast as the Fokker D.VII. These features made it possible for pilots such as Capt. Andrew McKeever to gain 23 of his 30 victories. And McKeever had only one eye!

As many as ten F.2B's survive, all in

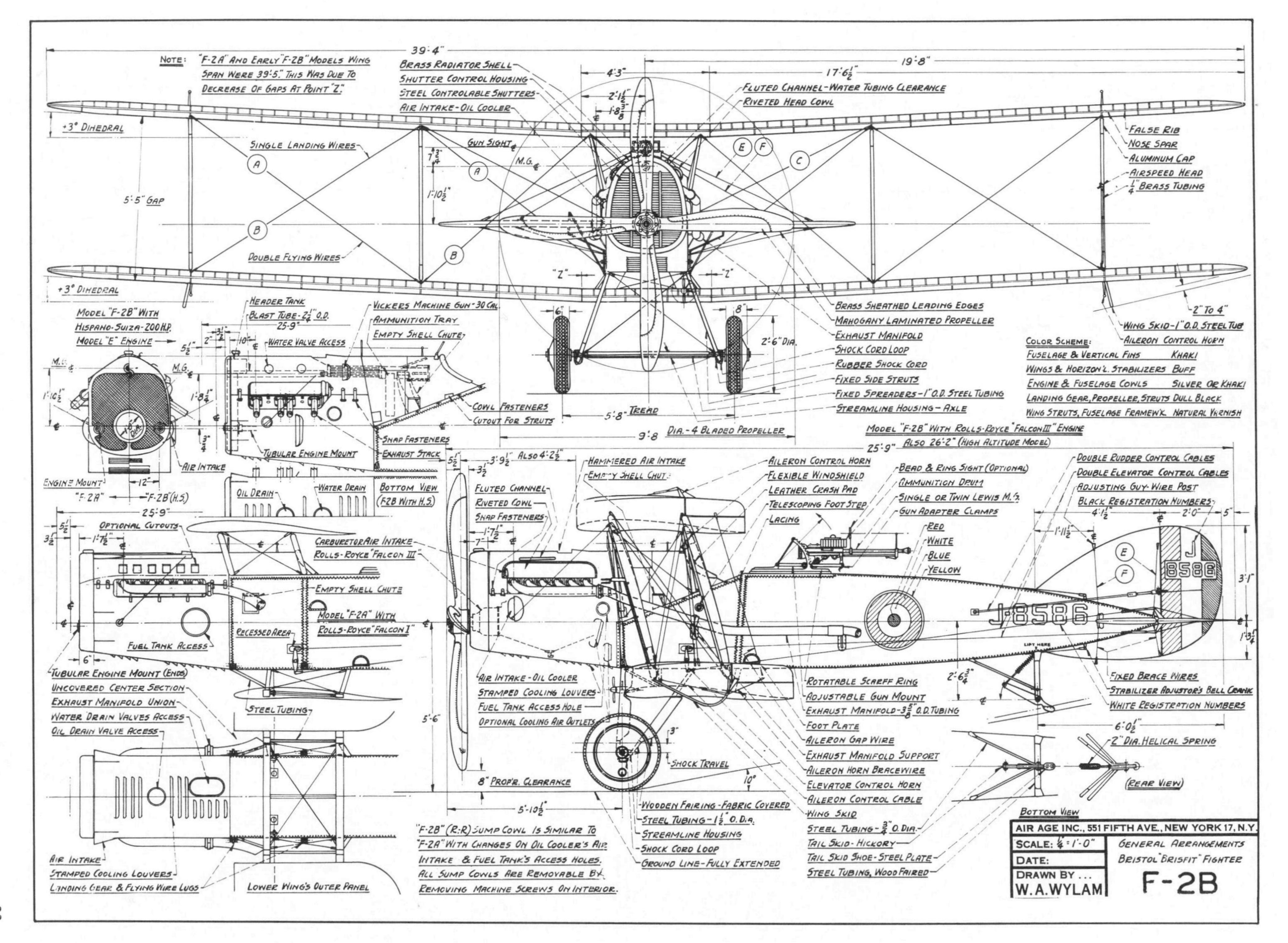


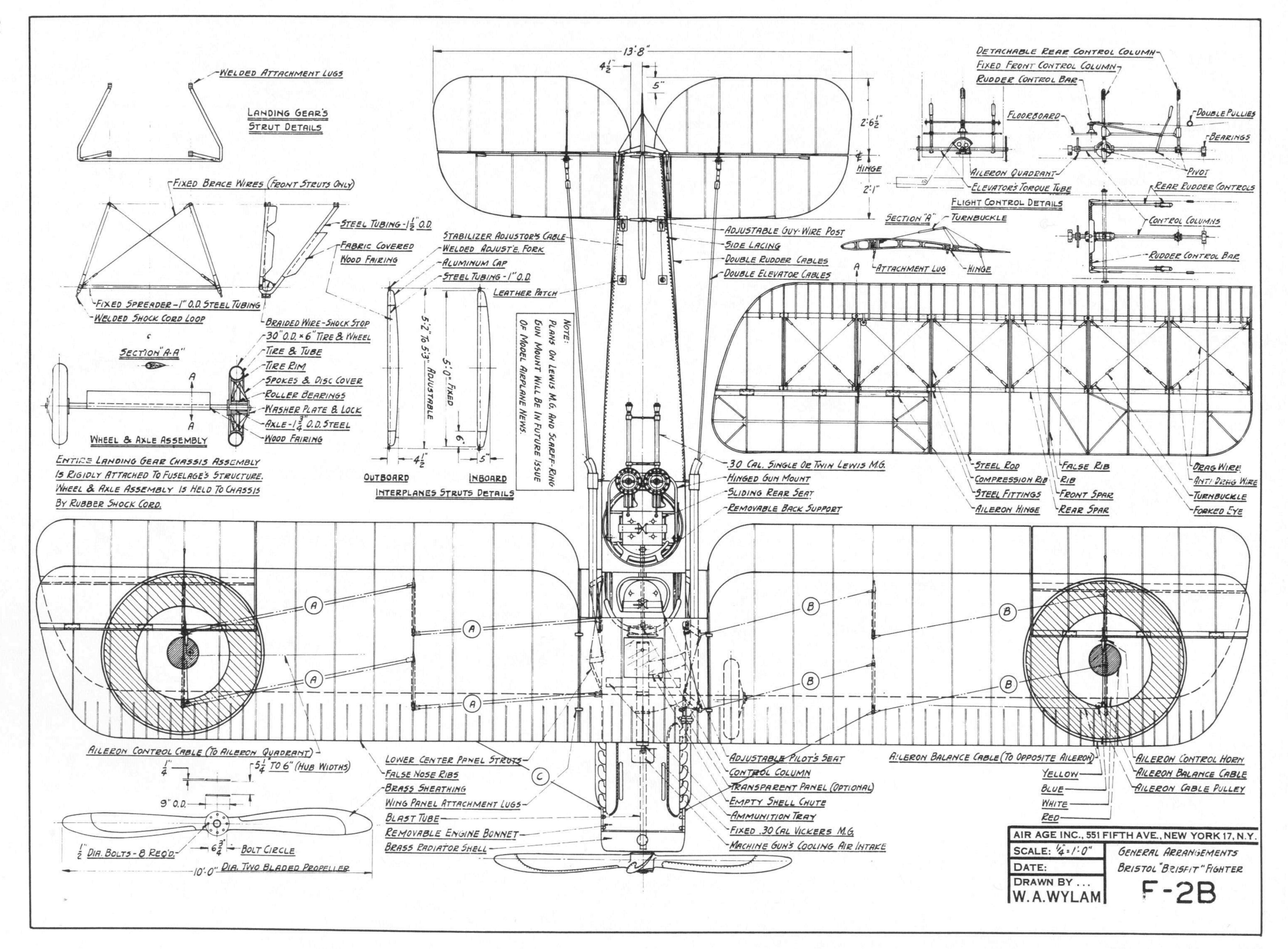


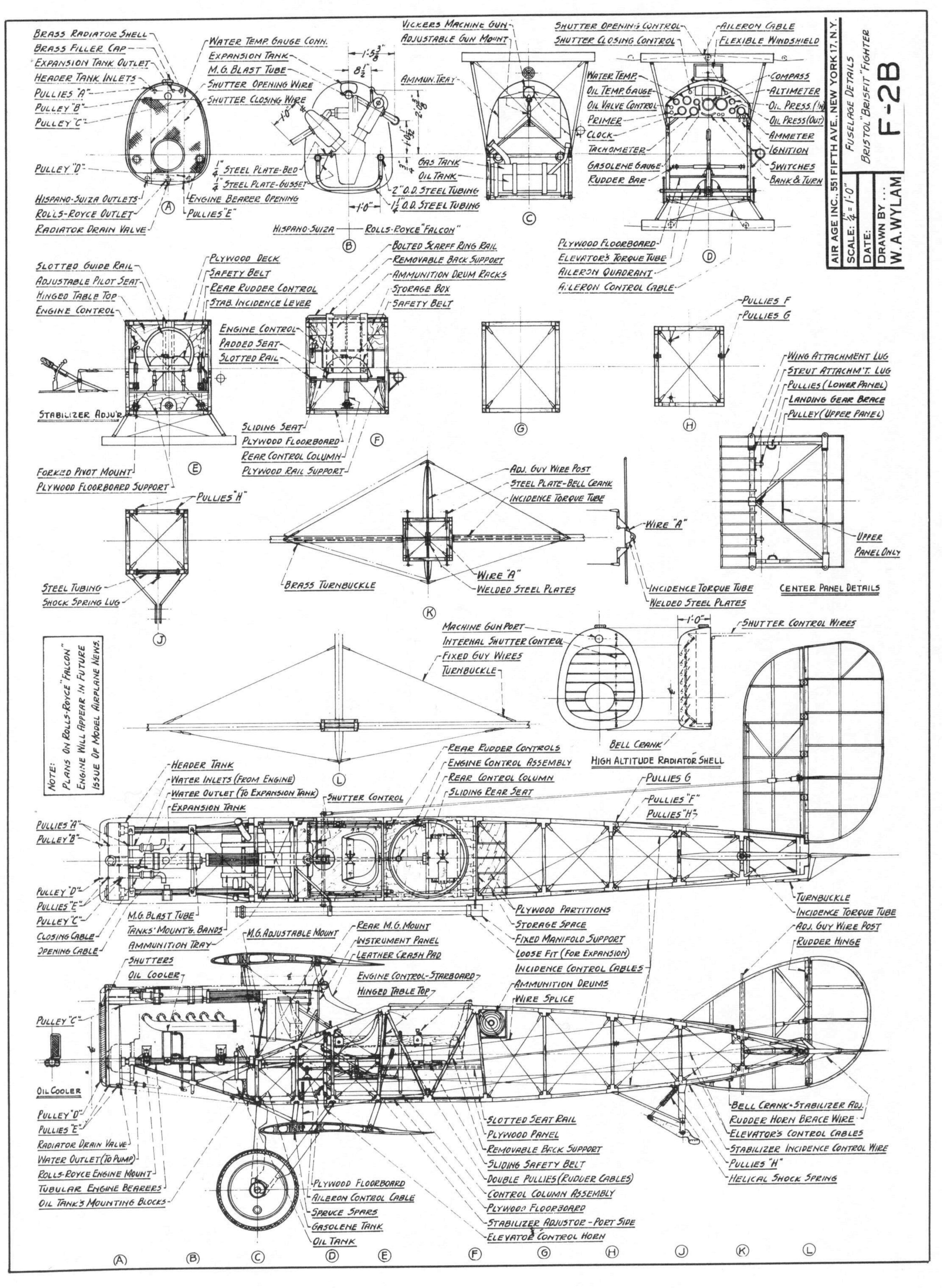
England; two of them in museums, the rest fragments being restored.

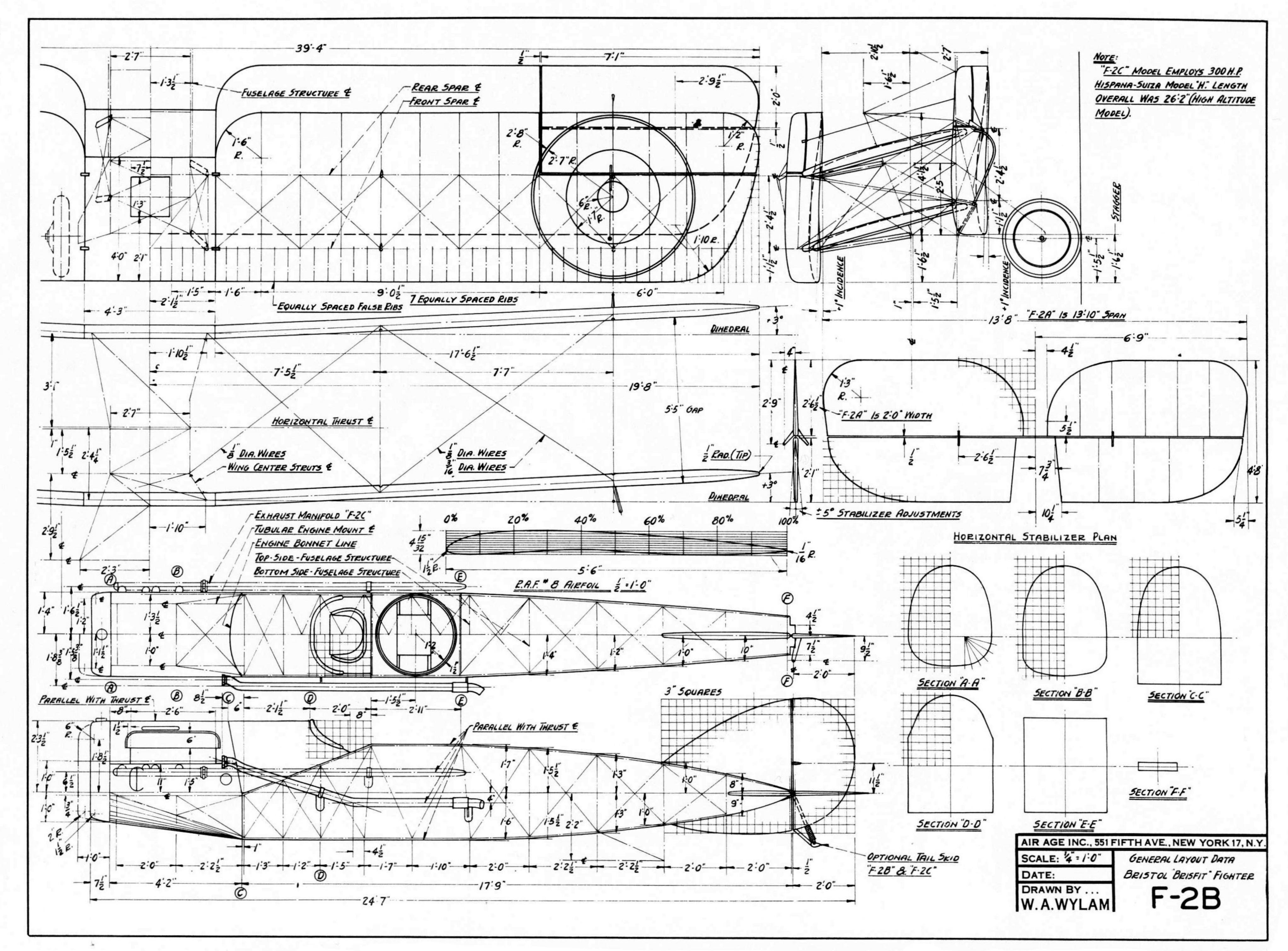
Wylam's drawings of the F.2B are among his most beautiful and least accurate. Modelers should check especially carefully against good photographs the shape of the oval radiator, the tapering rear fuselage, vertical tail, and underline of engine cowling.

The highly successful British Bristol Brisfit was very maneuverable and as fast as the Fokker D. VII. Air Age file photos.









# Chance Vought

drawings by WILLIS NYE

VE-7, VE-9, & UO-1



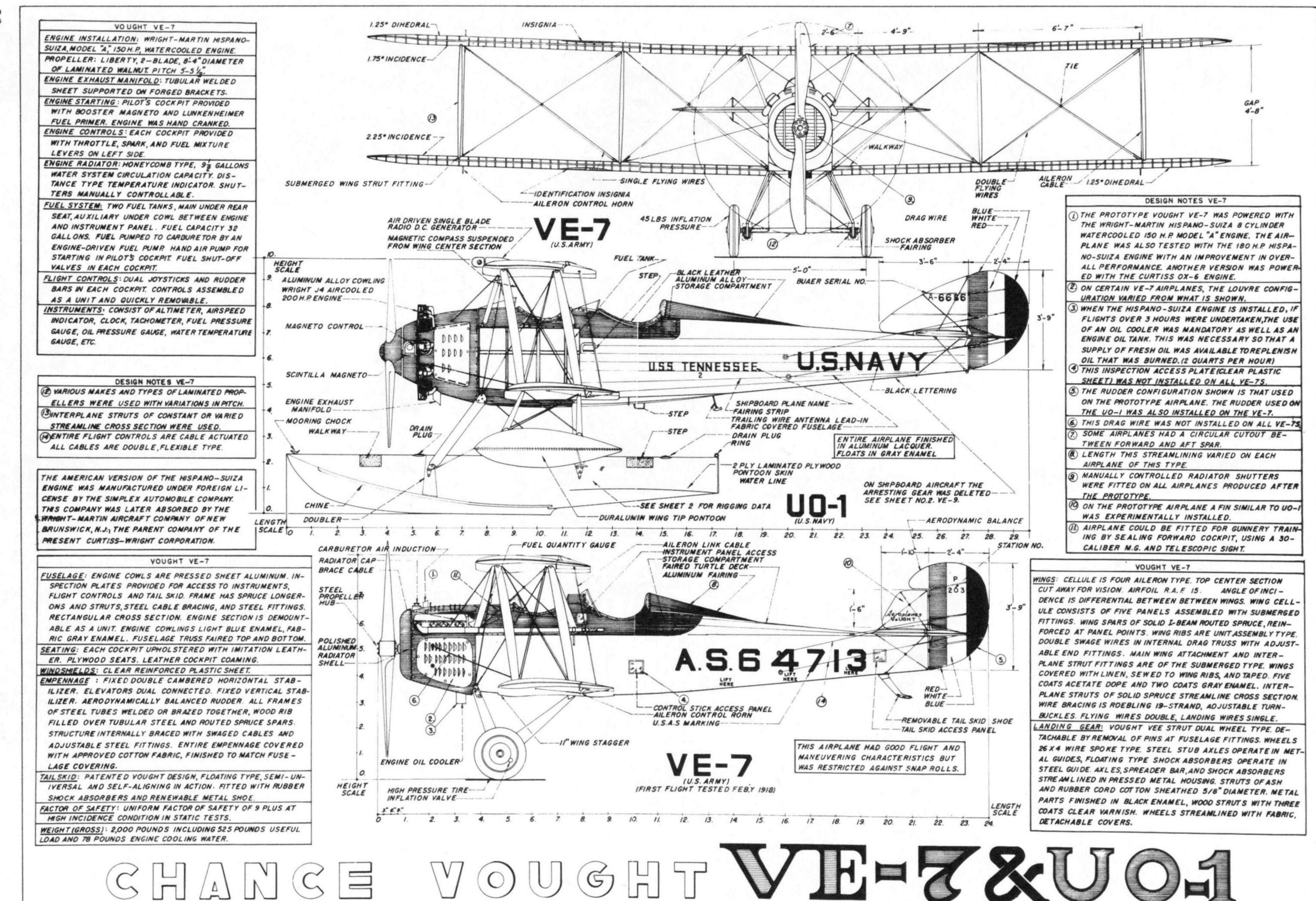
THE CHANCE-Vought VE-7 was designed as an entrant in the U.S. Army advanced trainer competition held in 1917, and the first experimental airplane was submitted for testing to Army authorities in 1918. The VE-7 won the competition and was ordered into production by the parent company and two

licensees, the Springfield Aircraft Co. and the B.F. Sturtevant Co. Twenty VE-7's were delivered by the end of WW I, and in 1922 to 1923 twenty-seven VE-9 airplanes were procured by the U.S. Army Air Service.

The VE-9 was an improved version of the VE-7, and was the first Americandesigned ship-board airplane that could be launched from a catapult. The service time of this version was one of the longest of that era, spanning over 10 years, which gave credibility to the company that was to remain a main provider of aircraft for the U.S. armed forces for many years.

Their association with Naval aircraft design is legendary. Air Age file photos of VE-7.





(SHEET NO.1)

