



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

### DOUGLAS A-24

In 1940, after the amazing success of the German Stuka dive bombers in Poland, the U.S. Army Air Corps ordered 78 of the U.S. Navy's Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber, designating it as the A-24. Fifty-four went to Australia, where in 1942 they had a less-than-glorious combat record flying against Japanese targets in Java and New Guinea. The A-24s were regarded as "too slow, too short-ranged, and too poorly armed." They were relegated to non-combat missions after five of seven airplanes were lost and one was badly damaged on a mission over Buna, New Guinea.



Douglas A-24 in flight. (U.S. Air Force photo)

In 1942 the U.S. Army Air Force received 90 more A-24s diverted from a Navy SBD-3 contract. These aircraft were essentially the same as the initial A-24s but received the SBD-3A designation during production.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force has an [A-24](#) on display.

Type	Number built/ converted	Remarks
A-24	78	Air Corps version of SBD-3
A-24	90	Diverted SBD-3A

#### TECHNICAL NOTES:

**Armament:** Two .50-cal. machine guns in the nose and twin .30-cal. flexible machine guns in rear cockpit; 1,200 lbs. of bombs

**Engine:** Wright R-1820-52 of 1,000 hp

**Maximum speed:** 250 mph/217 knots

**Cruising speed:** 173 mph/150 knots

**Service ceiling:** 26,000 ft.

**Range:** 950 miles with 1,200 lbs. of bombs

**Span:** 41 ft. 6 in.

**Length:** 32 ft. 8 in.

**Height:** 12 ft. 11 in.

**Weight:** 10,200 lbs. maximum (with 1,200 lbs. of bombs)

**Crew:** Two

**Serial numbers:** 41-15746 to 41-15823 (A-24); 42-6682 to 42-6771 (SBD-3A)

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