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FM 30-38

WAR DEPARTMENT
BASIC FIELD MANUAL
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
IDENTIFICATION OF
JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

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WAR DEPARTMENT
BASIC FIELD MANUAL
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

IDENTIFICATION OF
JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
CHIEF OF STAFF



ENGINEER REPRODUCTION PLANT
THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, March 10, 1941.

FM 30-38, Military Intelligence, Identification of Japanese
Aircraft, is published for the information and guidance of all
concerned.

(AG 062.11 (2-27-41).

By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

E. S. ADAMS,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

BASIC FIELD MANUAL

Military Intelligence

IDENTIFICATION OF JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

(This pamphlet supersedes FM 30-38, June 25, 1940.)

The following illustrations with explanatory data relative to Japanese aircraft are published for limited distribution. They will be used for instruction of officers and men in appearance and general characteristics of Japanese aircraft and will be safeguarded as prescribed in AR 380-5.

The Japanese airplane markings are as shown below:



WING

TAIL

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MILITARY AND NAVAL
AIRCRAFT

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Fighter 96

Description:

Crew:

Armament:

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors:

Maximum speed:

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range:

Remarks:

Slightly swept-back dihedral round tip, low wing monoplane. Fixed landing gear. Single seat.

Single seat.

Four 7.7mm machine guns; some fitting through air screw.

500 rounds per gun.

Single, Mitsubishi, 730 horsepower, Kinsei, air-cooled.

240 miles per hour at 7,000 feet.

5,000 feet in 6 minutes.

Critical altitude, 13,000 feet.

312 miles with military load.

Good climbing ability, small turning circle but *fragile*. 96-1 Kotobuki,

9-cylinder; 96-2A Hiyari; 96-2B

Jupiter 6-cylinder, air-cooled motors are those reported used. This appears to be a more recent model of the 96 fighter.

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A black silhouette of a biplane, shown from a side profile. It features two sets of wings, a single propeller at the front, and a tail section with a vertical stabilizer.

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A black silhouette of a monoplane, shown from a side profile. It has a single set of wings, a propeller at the front, and a tail section with a vertical stabilizer.



Fighter 97 Nakajima

Description:

Swept-back tapered, round tip, cantilever, low wing, blunt nose monoplane. Monocoque construction in rear of cockpit. Streamlined, divided, single strut, nonretractable landing gear.

Crew:

Single seat.

Armament:

Three machine guns firing forward (Two of these in wings).

Ammunition:

500 rounds per gun.

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors:

Single Nakajima 750 horsepower Hikan air-cooled motor.

Maximum speed:

280 miles per hour, critical altitude.
240 miles per hour, sea level.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range:

385 miles.

Remarks:

Slightly larger than 96 Nakajima Fighter. Some models fitted with retractable landing gear.

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Fighter 98 Seversky
(Also called Navy model 12)

Description: Nonretractable and retractable landing gear.
Crew: Two seats.
Armament: Two 7.7-mm wing machine guns (or 20-mm wing cannon); one flexible observers' machine gun and one machine gun firing through air screw; or two 7.7-mm fixed guns.

Ammunition:
Bomb load: 500 pounds (reduces range slightly).

Radio:
Armor:
Motors: Believed to be twin row, air-cooled radial engines.

Maximum speed: 260 miles per hour.
Rate of climb: Estimated at 3,500 feet in 1 minute.

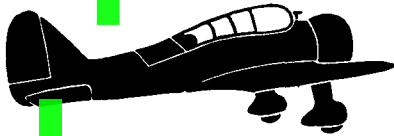
Service ceiling:
Maximum range: 13 hours at 200 miles per hour.

Remarks: Airplanes are equipped with nonretractable and retractable landing gears. Appears to be a copy of a Seversky Fighter.

Fighter 98 Seversky
(Also called Navy model 12)

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Fighter 100
(Also called Zero type)

Description: Monoplane with hooded cockpit and retractable landing gear.

Crew: Single seat.

Armament: Two 20mm cannon wing guns; two fixed machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors:

Radio telephone.

Single, 14-cylinder, twin row, radial air-cooled engine.

Maximum speed: 344 miles per hour (307 knots).

Rate of climb: 200 miles per hour (268 knots) cruising speed.

Service ceiling: Fast.

Maximum range: Maximum ceiling, 10,000 meters or 6.2 miles.

6 to 8 hours endurance with use of belly tank. 150 gallons auxiliary. Total gasoline capacity, 1,200 liters or 324 gallons.

Remarks:

Employs dive tactics but avoids use of acrobatics. Can operate from carrier.

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**JAPANESE
Army**



**Fighter BFW
Messerschmitt 109**

Description:

Tapered, square tip, low wing monoplane. All metal, single motor, pointed nose, enclosed cockpit and retractable landing gear.

Crew:

One.

Armament:

Two machine guns, fixed fuselage, and two 20-mm cannon, fixed wing.

Ammunition:

2,000 rounds machine-gun; 120 rounds 20-mm.

Bomb load:

Radio:

VL

Armor:

Motors:

1,500 horsepower, 600A, liquid-cooled.

Maximum speed:

354 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

To 13,120 feet in 3.8 minutes.

Service ceiling:

36,080 feet.

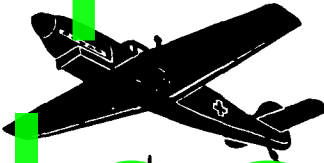
Maximum range:

620 miles at 298 m.p.h.

Remarks:



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1940 Mitsubishi Fighter
(Type designation of aircraft)

Description:

Low wing, cantilever monoplane with retractable tricycle undercarriage.

Crew:

One.

Armaments:

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors:

Two 1,000 horsepower, Mitsubishi, Kinsei, air-cooled or two BMW 750 horsepower, water-cooled engines located in tandem, one forward and one in rear of cockpit, three-bladed propeller.

Maximum speed:

350 miles per hour, critical altitude.

Rate of climb:

26,000 feet, 15 minutes.

Service ceiling:

33,000 feet, 15 minutes.

Service ceiling:

32,000 feet.

Maximum range:

Range 500 miles at cruising speed.

Remarks:

One unit all metal structure of two dural spars, dural ribs, and smooth dural stressed tube structure covered with detachable dural and aluminum panels. Flaps mounted between ailerons and tail booms and fuselage.

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