

BASIC FIELD MANUAL



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

**IDENTIFICATION OF
JAPANESE AIRCRAFT**



Prepared under direction of the
Chief of Staff



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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

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Chief of Staff.

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The Adjutant General.*

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(For explanation of symbols see FM 21-6.)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

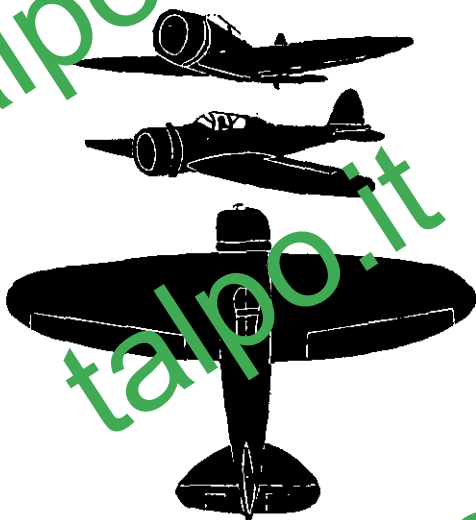
JAPANESE ARMY

	Page
Single engine fighters:	
BFW (Messerschmitt 109)	4
Kawasaki 92	6
Kawasaki 95	8
Kawasaki 97	10
(Kawasaki/Kawa 102) 98	12
Mitsubishi 96	14
Mitsubishi 97	16
Mitsubishi 98 (Karigane II)	18
Mitsubishi Zero	20
Shōwa Zero	22
Nakajima 91	24
Nakajima 96	26
Nakajima 97	28
Seversky 98	30
Twin engine fighters:	
Mitsubishi Century	32
Dive bombers:	
Alchi Clock Alchi	34
Number 96	36
Light bombardment:	
Kawasaki 97	38
Mitsubishi Darai 108 (Type 97)	40
Mitsubishi Kamikaze 9	42
Mitsubishi Mits 10	44
Mitsubishi Mits 104 (Type 98)	46
Number 9	48
Number 9a	50
Number 99	52
Shōwa Shō 90 (Fighter-Bomber)	54
Reconnaissance-bombers:	
Kawasaki 88	56
Kawasaki 93	58
Mitsubishi 92	60
Mitsubishi 93A	62
Mitsubishi 93B	64
Mitsubishi 98	66
Nakajima 94	68
Osaka 97	70
Medium bombers:	
Number 98	72
Heavy bombers:	
Kawasaki (Kawa 95) 97	74
Mitsubishi 92	76
Mitsubishi 97	78
Mitsubishi 98 (Mitsu 106)	80
Nakajima 19 (Bomber-Transport)	82
Number 96	84
Number 97	86
Number 98 (B. R. 20 Flat)	88

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Transports, commercial and military:	
Airspeed Envoy.....	90
Douglas DC-2.....	92
Douglas DC-3.....	94
Fokker.....	96
Junkers Ju 52.....	98
Lockheed 14.....	100
Mitsubishi MC 20.....	102
Nakajima A. T.....	104
Trainers:	
Tatikawa 95-1.....	106
Tatikawa 95-3.....	108
J. PANESE NAVY	
Fighters:	
Mitsubishi 99.....	112
Mitsubishi 97.....	114
Mitsubishi 97 (Modification 01).....	116
Nakajima 99.....	116
Nakajima 95.....	120
Nakajima 97.....	122
Nakajima 97 (Naka 93).....	124
Nakajima 97 (Naka 97).....	126
Number 95 (Carrier).....	128
Dive bombers:	
Aichi 99.....	130
Mitsubishi 96.....	132
Number 97.....	134
Reconnaissance-bombers:	
Aichi 92.....	136
Aichi Tokel 97 A. I. 92.....	138
Kawanishi 93.....	140
Kawanishi 94.....	142
Nakajima 90-2.....	144
Number 95.....	146
Number 97 (Divine Wind).....	148
Torpedo bombers:	
Kawanishi 97 (Kawa 94).....	150
Mitsubishi 97.....	152
Nakajima 96.....	154
Number 96.....	156
Bombers:	
Aichi A1 104.....	158
Mitsubishi 96 Mk. III.....	160
Mitsubishi 96 Mk. IV.....	162
Mitsubishi 96 (Otori).....	164
Flying boats:	
Hiro 91-1.....	166
Kawanishi 90-2.....	168
Kawanishi 97.....	170
Mitsubishi 96 (Mitsu 95).....	172
Number 97 (Sikorsky 5-42).....	174

Fighter
MITSUBISHI ZERO



JAPANESE
ARMY

NAKAGAMA ZERO FIGHTER

Description: Tapered, swept-back, round tip, slightly dihedral, all metal, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, blunt nose, enclosed cockpit, and retractable landing gear.

Crew: One.

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

Ammunition: 500 rounds each machine gun.

Bomb load:

Radio: Two-way radio telephone and code.

Armor:

Motors: Single 140-horsepower Nakajima NK-1, 14-cylinder, twin-row, radial air-cooled engine.

Maximum speed: 340 miles per hour.

Rate of climb: Fast.

Service ceiling: 32,810 feet.

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

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

Fighter
NAGOYA ZERO



JAPANESE
ARMY

NAKAJIMA 91 FIGHTER
(Obsolescent)

Description:

Crew: One.

Armament:

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 450 horsepower Nakajima Jupiter.

Maximum speed: 200 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range: 400 miles (approximate).

Wing span: 36 feet.

Remarks: Resembles Nieuport-Delage.

Fighter
NAKAJIMA 91



(1936)

JAPANESE
ARMY

NAKAJIMA 96 FIGHTER

Description: Slightly swept-back, dihedral, round tip, low-wing monoplane. Fixed landing gear. Single seat.
Crew: Single seat.
Armament: Four 7.7-mm machine guns; some firing through air screw.
Ammunition: 500 rounds per gun.
Bomb load:
Radio:
Armor:
Motors: Single Mitsubishi, 130-horsepower, Kinsei air-cooled.
Maximum speed: 240 miles per hour at 7,000 feet.
Rate of climb: 5,000 feet in 6 minutes.
Service ceiling: Critical altitude, 13,000 feet.
Maximum range: 312 miles with military load.
Wing span: 28 feet.
Remarks: Good climbing ability, small turning circle but *fragile*. 96 1 Kotobuki, 9-cylinder; 96 2A Hikari; 96 2B Jupiter 6-cylinder air-cooled motors are those reported used. This appears to be a more recent model of the 96 fighter. Resembles Boeing P26.

Fighter
NAKAJIMA 96



(1937)

JAPANESE
ARMY



NAKAJIMA 97 FIGHTER

- Description:** Swept-back, tapered, round tip, cantilever, low-wing, blunt nose monoplane. Monocoque construction in rear of cockpit. Streamlined, divided, single strut, non-retractable 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, Hikari, air-cooled motor.
- Maximum speed:** 280 miles per hour, critical altitude 240 miles per hour, sea level.
- Rate of climb:**
- Service ceiling:** 33,000 feet.
- Maximum range:** 389 miles.
- Remarks:** Slightly larger than 96 Nakajima Fighter. Some models fitted with retractable landing gear.

Fighter
NAKAJIMA 97



JAPANESE
ARMY



SEVERSKY 98 FIGHTER

Description: Nonretractable and retractable landing gear.

Crew: Two seats.

Armament: Two .37-caliber machine guns, and 10-mm wing cannon.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 500 pounds (reduces range slightly).

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: Twin-row, air-cooled, radial engines.

Maximum speed: 280 miles per hour.

Rate of climb: Estimated at 3,500 feet in 1 minute.

Service ceiling:

Maximum range: 2,600 miles.

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

Fighter
SEVERSKY 98



**JAPANESE
ARMY**

MITSUBISHI CENTURY FIGHTER

Description:
 Crew:
 Armament: Two 27-mm cannon.
 Ammunition:
 Bomb load:
 Radio:
 Armor:
 Motors: Two Nakajima Nk-1 14-cylinder, radial.
 Maximum speed: 350 miles per hour.
 Rate of climb:
 Service ceiling: 31,000 feet.
 Maximum range: 840 miles with ample margin for combat.
 Wing span:
 Remarks: Range can be increased to 8 hours by addition of belly tanks.

Fighter
MITSUBISHI CENTURY

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**JAPANESE
ARMY**

AICHI CUCK AICHI DIVE BOMBER

Description: .
 Crew: Two.
 Armament: Three machine guns (one similar to Lewis).
 Ammunition: .
 Bomb load: 550 pounds.
 Radio: .
 Armor: .
 Motors: One 1,400-horsepower Kensei 44 twin-row radial.
 Maximum speed: .
 Rate of climb: .
 Service ceiling: 25,000 feet.
 Maximum range: .
 Wing span: .
 Remarks:

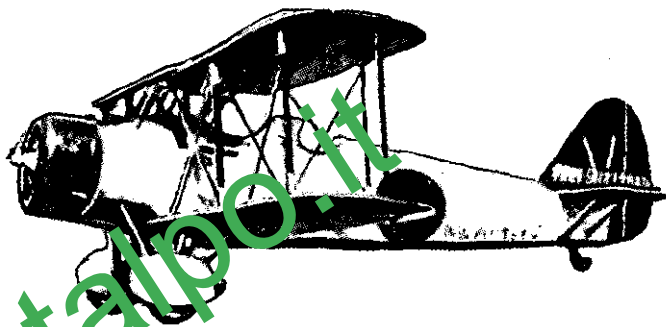
Dive Bomber
AICHI CLOCK AICHI

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JAPANESE
ARMY AND NAVY



DIVE BOMBER 96

Description:	Straight wing, round tip conventional type, blunt nose biplane with inter-wing bracing. Fixed landing gear with wheel fairings. Also has arresting gear and probably floating gear.
Crew:	Three places (2 seat).
Armament:	Two fixed and one flexible 7.7-mm machine guns.
Ammunition:	500 rounds per fixed, 700 rounds per flexible machine gun.
Bomb load:	Maximum 1,100 pounds. Carries bombs or torpedo.
Radio:	CW telegraph.
Armor:	
Motors:	Single Hikari (Nakajima), 9-cylinder, radial air-cooled motor. B7M 12-cylinder, 700-horsepower also used.
Maximum speed:	174 miles per hour; 841 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	
Maximum range:	Radius of action, 250 miles.
Remarks:	



**JAPANESE
ARMY**

KAWASAKI 97 LIGHT BOMBER

Description: Swept-back, tapered, round tip, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, long tapered nose, inclosed cockpit, and fixed landing gear.

Crew: Two.

Armament: Three machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 800 pounds.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 90-horse power Kawa BMW liquid-cooled.

Maximum speed: 233 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling: 25,000 feet.

Maximum range: 490 miles.

Wing span: 48 feet.

Remarks:

Light Bomber
KAWASAKI 97



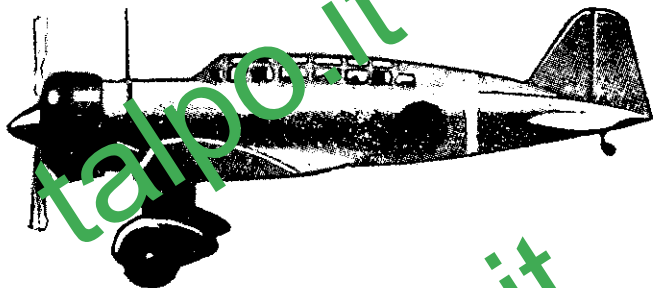
JAPANESE
ARMY

MITSUBISHI DARAI 108 (TYPE 97) LIGHT BOMBER

Description:	Slightly swept-back, tapered, round tip, midwing monoplane. Twin engine, tapered nose, inclosed cockpit, and retractable landing gear.
Crew:	Five.
Armament:	Two cannon and two machine guns.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	1,230 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	Two 350 horsepower Darai 108 Diesel.
Maximum speed:	175 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	20,000 feet.
Maximum range:	500 miles.
Wing span:	48 feet.
Remarks:	

Light Bomber
MITSUBISHI DARAI 108 (TYPE 97)



JAPANESE
ARMY

MITSUBISHI KAMIKAZI LIGHT BOMBER 97

Description:	Slightly dihedral, swept-back, round tip, cantilever, low-wing monoplane. Fixed and streamlined landing gear.
Crew:	Two.
Armament:	Three machine guns.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	300 kilograms or 661.3 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	Single 800-horsepower, Kotobuki.
Maximum speed:	260 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	30,000 feet.
Maximum range:	450 miles.
Wing span:	40 feet.
Remarks:	

Light Bomber
MITSUBISHI KAMIKAZI 97



**JAPANESE
ARMY**

MITSUBISHI MITSU 103 LIGHT BOMBER

Description:
 Crew:
 Armament: Three machine guns.
 Ammunition: 540 rounds per machine gun.
 Bomb load: 1,000 pounds.
 Radio:
 Armor:
 Motors: One 900 horsepower Mitsu.
 Maximum speed: 260 miles per hour.
 Rate of climb:
 Service ceiling: 7,000 feet.
 Maximum range: 750 miles.
 Wing span:
 Remarks: Sometimes used as a reconnaissance-diver bomber.

Light Bomber
MITSUBISHI MITSU 103

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JAPANESE
ARMY

MITSUBISHI MITSU 104 (TYPE 98) LIGHT BOMBER

Description:	Swept-back, round tip, slightly dihedral, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, blunt nose, inclosed cockpit, and fixed landing gear.
Crew:	Two or three.
Armament:	Three machine guns.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	3,300 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	One Mitsui, air cooled.
Maximum speed:	250 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	25,000 feet.
Maximum range:	260 miles.
Wing span:	46 feet.
Remarks:	

Light Bomber
MITSUBISHI MITSU 104 (TYPE 98)



JAPANESE
ARMY



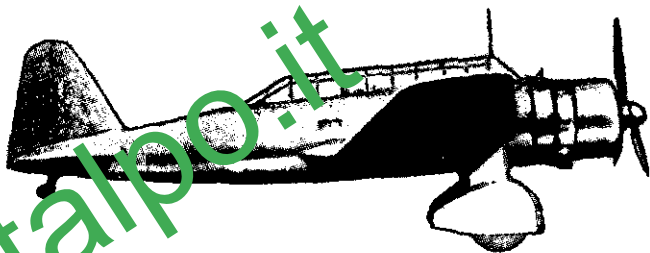
LIGHT BOMBER 97

- Description:** Low-wing monoplane. Fixed and stream-lined landing gear.
- Crew:** Two seat.
- Armament:**
- Ammunition:**
- Bomb load:**
- Radio:**
- Armor:**
- Motors:** Single BMW IV, 12-cylinder, water-cooled engine.
- Maximum speed:** 280 miles per hour.
- Rate of climb:**
- Service ceiling:**
- Maximum range:**
- Remarks:** A model of this type is reported with retractable landing gear, flap, arresting and flotation gears.

Light Bomber
97



JAPANESE
ARMY



LIGHT BOMBER 98

Description: Round tip, midwing monoplane. Fixed and streamlined landing gear.

Crew: Two.

Armament: Machine gun and bombs.

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: Twin-row, radial air-cooled. Probably Hikari. Radial engine.

Maximum speed:

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling: 16,200 feet.

Maximum range:

Remarks: Same as type 97 except it has radial engine.

Light Bomber
98



JAPANESE
ARMY AND NAVY

LIGHT BOMBER 99

Description: Conventional type low-wing monoplane with hooded cockpit and nonretractable landing gear.

Crew: Two place.

Armament: Two fixed and one flexible 7.7-mm machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 620 kilograms or 1,364 pounds of bombs or one 60-kilogram or 137-pound bomb under each wing and 50 kilograms or 110 pounds of bombs under fuselage.

Radio: Type unknown.

Armor:

Motors: Single 14-cylinder, twin-row, 900- to 950-horsepower, radial air-cooled engine.

Maximum speed: 256 miles per hour (222 knots).

Rate of climb: Fair.

Service ceiling: Maximum ceiling, 8,000 meters or 4.6 miles.

Maximum range: Endurance, 6 hours.

Remarks: Flotation gear when operating from carrier.

Light Bomber
99

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**JAPANESE
ARMY**

SHŌWA SHŌ 98 FIGHTER-BOMBER

Description: Sweep-back, tapered, round tip, dihedral, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, long blunt nose, inclosed cockpit, and retractable landing gear.

Crew: Two or three.

Armament: Two cannon and two machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 2,280 pounds.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 850-horsepower Shōwa.

Maximum speed: 225 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range: 950 miles.

Wing span: 39 feet.

Remarks:

Fighter-Bomber
SHŌWA SHŌ 98



**JAPANESE
ARMY**

**KAWASAKI 88 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER
(Obsolescent)**

Description:
 Crew:
 Armament:
 Ammunition:
 Bomb load:
 Radio:
 Armor:
 Motors: One 450-horse power Kawasaki BMW.
 Maximum speed: 143 miles per hour.
 Rate of climb:
 Service ceiling:
 Maximum range:
 Wing span: 50 feet.
 Remarks:

Reconnaissance-Bomber
KAWASAKI 88

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JAPANESE
ARMY



KAWASAKI 93 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER
(Obsolescent)

Description: Slightly swept-back, round tip, cut-out, staggered biplane of unequal span. Single engine, blunt nose, open cockpit, and fixed landing gear.

Crew: Two.

Armament:

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 2,200 pounds.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 600-horsepower Kawasaki BMW.

Maximum speed: 162 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range: 620 miles.

Wing span: 43 feet.

Remarks:

Reconnaissance-Bomber
KAWASAKI 93



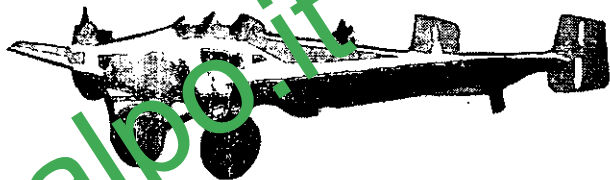
JAPANESE
ARMYMITSUBISHI I 92 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER
(Obsolescent)

Description:	Slightly swept-back, round tip, cut-out, parasol type, high-wing monoplane. Single engine, short blunt nose, open cockpit, and fixed landing gear.
Crew:	Two.
Armament:	Three machine guns.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	620 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	20-horsepower Mitsubishi Jaguar.
Maximum speed:	135 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	20,000 feet.
Maximum range:	370 miles.
Wing span:	43 feet.
Remarks:	Resembles Mureaux.

Reconnaissance-Bomber
MITSUBISHI 92



JAPANESE
ARMY



mitsubishi 93A RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER
(Obsolescent)

- Description: Low-wing monoplane. Two engine, in-
closed cockpit, fixed landing gear, and
twin rudders.
- Crew:
- Armament:
- Ammunition:
- Bomb load:
- Radio:
- Armor:
- Motors: Two 700-horsepower Mitsubishi or Kawa-
saki.
- Maximum speed: 137 miles per hour.
- Rate of climb:
- Service ceiling:
- Maximum range:
- Wing span: 89 feet.
- Remarks: Resembles Junkers J-17.

Reconnaissance-Bomber
MITSUBISHI 93A

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JAPANESE
ARMY



MITSUBISHI KI-51 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER
(Obsolescent)

Description: Midwing monoplane. Twin engine, in-
closed cockpit, fixed landing gear, and
twin rudders.

Crew:

Armament:

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: Two 50-horsepower Nakajima Jupiter.

Maximum speed: 150 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling:

Maximum range:

Wing span: 66 feet.

Remarks: Resembles Junkers K-46.

Reconnaissance-Bomber
MITSUBISHI 93B

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JAPANESE
ARMY

mitsubishi 98 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER

Description: Swept-back, slightly tapered, square tip, dihedral, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, blunt nose, inclosed cockpit, and fixed landing gear.

Crew:

Armament:

Ammunition:

Bomb load:

Radio:

Aarmor:

Motors:

Maximum speed:

Rate of climb:

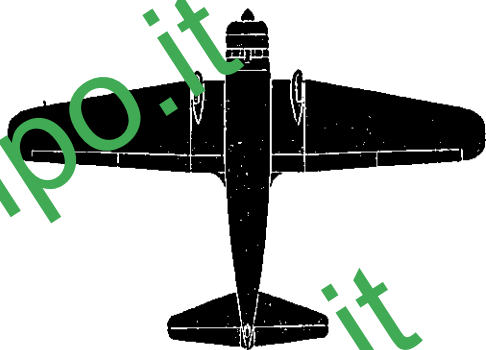
Service ceiling:

Maximum range:

Wing span:

Remarks:

Reconnaissance-Bomber
MITSUBISHI 98

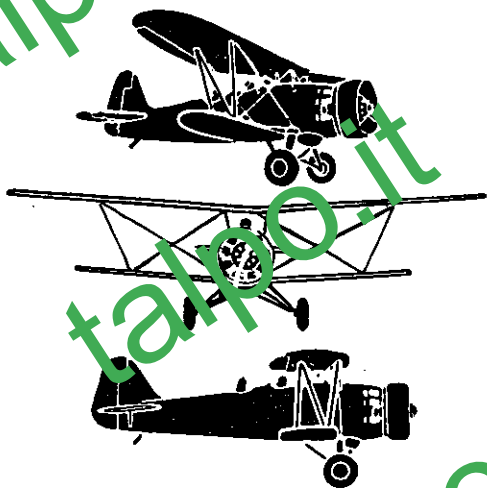


JAPANESE
ARMY

NAKAJIMA 94 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER

Description:	Recon. biplane, cut-out, dihedral, slightly staggered biplane of unequal span. Single engine, long blunt nose, open cockpit, and fixed landing gear.
Crew:	Two.
Armament:	Two machine guns.
Ammunition:	.
Bomb load:	660 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	One 200-horsepower Taisanohova (Diesel).
Maximum speed:	175 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	23,000 feet.
Maximum range:	470 miles.
Wing span:	39 feet.
Remarks:	Resembles Chance-Vought.

Reconnaissance-Bomber
NAKAJIMA 94



**JAPANESE
ARMY**

OSAKA 17 RECONNAISSANCE-BOMBER

Description: Slightly swept-back, tapered, tapered tip, high-wing monoplane. Single engine, blunt nose, inclosed cockpit, and fixed landing gear.

Crew: Two.

Armament: One machine gun.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 200 pounds.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 200-horse power Taishahova (Diesel).

Maximum speed: 162 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

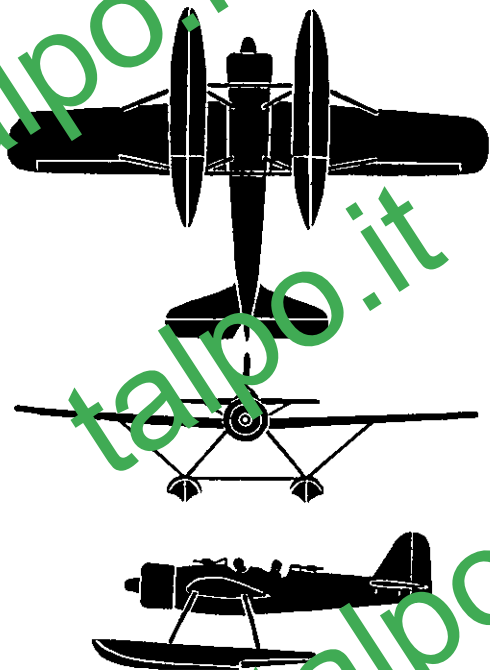
Service ceiling: 14,000 feet.

Maximum range: 870 miles.

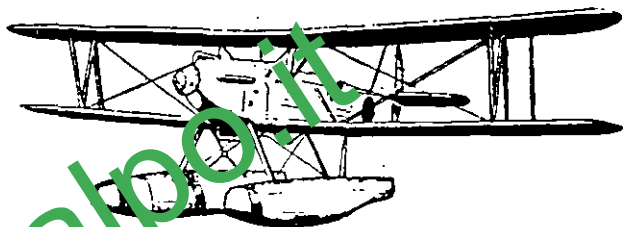
Wing span: 34 feet.

Remarks:

Reconnaissance
97 (DIVINE WIND)



**JAPANESE
NAVY**



KAWANISHI 97 (KAWA 94) TORPEDO BOMBER

- Description:** Straight wing, round fuselage, slightly dihedral biplane. Twin floats.
- Crew:** Two or three.
- Armament:** One fixed forward, and one flexible dorsal machine gun.
- Ammunition:** 500 rounds per fixed gun. 700 rounds per flexible mounted gun.
- Bomb load:** Largest bomb 500 pounds.
- Radio:** CW telegraph.
- Armor:**
- Motors:** Single, Kawanishi, 650-horsepower, Horizontal, 12-cylinder, W-type, water-cooled engine. Also Mitsubishi Junkers, V-type, water-cooled. 800 horsepower.
- Maximum speed:** 155 miles per hour.
- Rate of climb:**
- Service ceiling:** 20,000 feet.
- Maximum range:** 450 miles.
- Wing span:** 46 feet.
- Remarks:**

Torpedo Bomber
KAWANISHI 97 (KAWA 94)



**JAPANESE
NAVY**

MITSUBISHI 97 TORPEDO BOMBER

Description: Tapered, round tip, dihedral, low-wing monoplane. Single engine, blunt nose, and retractable landing gear.

Crew: Three.

Armament: Three machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 1,500-pound torpedoes or 1,100-pound bombs.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: One 900-horse power Kinsei.

Maximum speed: 295 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

Service ceiling: 23,000 feet.

Maximum range: 470 miles.

Wing span: 50 feet.

Remarks:

Torpedo Bomber
MITSUBISHI 97

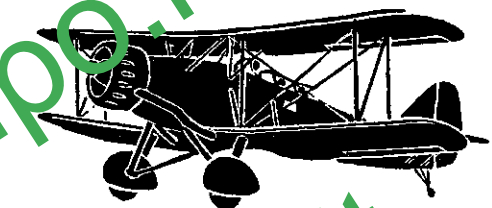


JAPANESE
NAVY

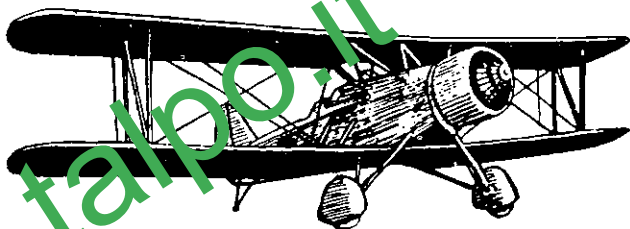
NAKAJIMA 96 TORPEDO BOMBER

Description:	Straight wing, round tip, staggered bi-plane. Single engine, long blunt nose, inclosed cockpit and fixed landing gear.
Crew:	Three
Armament:	One machine gun.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	1,500-pound torpedoes.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	One 600-horsepower Kotobuki.
Maximum speed:	168 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service-ceiling:	20,000 feet.
Maximum range:	425 miles.
Wing span:	49 feet.
Remarks:	

Torpedo Bomber
NAKAJIMA 96



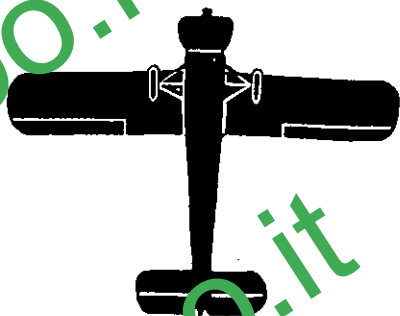
JAPANESE
NAVY



TORPEDO BOMBER 96

- Description:** Biplane, nonretractable, streamlined.
- Crew:** Three seater.
- Armament:** Five machine guns.
- Ammunition:**
- Bomb load:** 1,500-pound torpedo or bombs.
- Radio:**
- Armor:**
- Motors:** Single, Nakari, 600-horsepower, air-cooled engine for light bomber. Probably 800-horsepower, air-cooled engine for torpedo bomber.
- Maximum speed:** 300 kilometers or 186.4 miles per hour.
- Rate of climb:**
- Service ceiling:** Maximum ceiling, 7,600 meters.
- Maximum range:** Five hours at 140 miles per hour with load.
- Remarks:**

Torpedo Bomber
96



JAPANESE
NAVY

ALBATROSS 104 BOMBER

Description: Swept-back, round tip, dihedral, mid-wing monoplane. Three engines, long blunt nose, blunt engine nacelles set into wing, inclosed cockpit, and fitted with twin floats.

Crew: Five.

Armament: Two 37-mm cannon and four machine guns.

Ammunition:

Bomb load: 2,200 pounds.

Radio:

Armor:

Motors: Three 570 Aichi.

Maximum speed: 230 miles per hour.

Rate of climb:

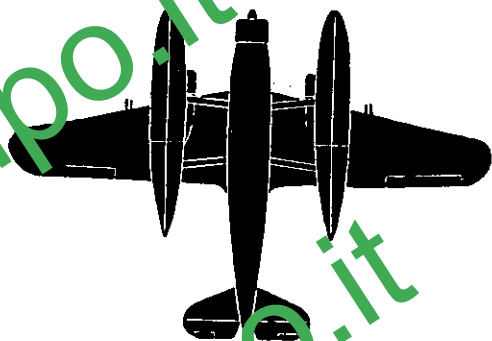
Service ceiling: 24,000 feet.

Maximum range: 1,000 miles.

Wing span: 87 feet.

Remarks:

Bomber
AICHI AI 104



JAPANESE
NAVY



MITSUBISHI 96 MK. III BOMBER

Description:	Swept-back, tapered, square tip, slightly dihedral, midwing monoplane. Twin engine, long rounded nose, engine nacelles below wing, closed cockpit, twin rudders, and retractable landing gear.
Crew:	Seven.
Armament:	Eight machine guns.
Ammunition:	
Bomb load:	2,200 pounds.
Radio:	
Armor:	
Motors:	Two 840-horsepower Mitsubishi.
Maximum speed:	210 miles per hour.
Rate of climb:	
Service ceiling:	
Maximum range:	
Wing span:	82 feet.
Remarks:	Resembles Junkers Ju 88 K

Bomber
MITSUBISHI 96 MK. III

