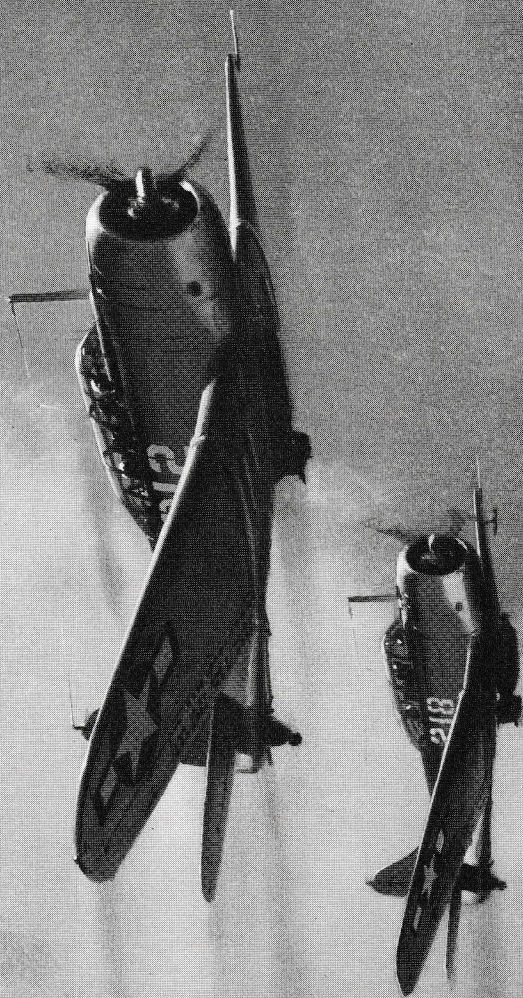




DOUGLAS SBD DAUNTLESS

DOUGLAS SBD DAUNTLESS

From TIME Magazine
July 31, 1944

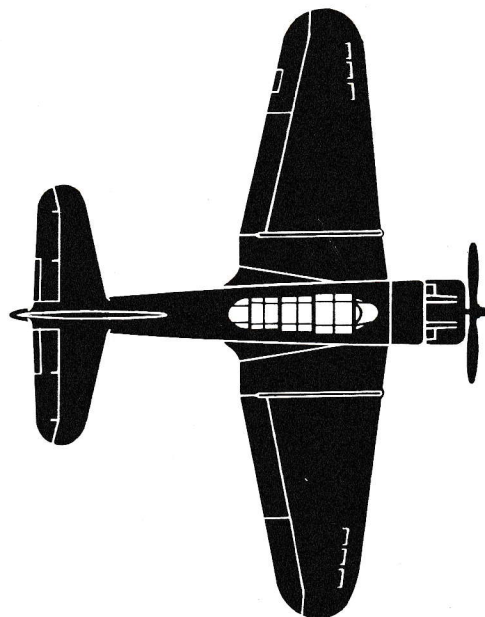
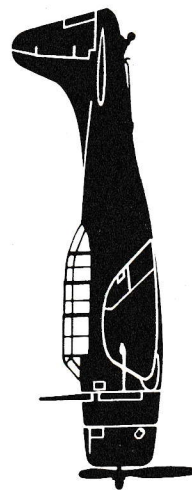
"LAST OF THE LINE"

"The 5,396th SBD Dauntless rolled off the line last week at Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo plant in Los Angeles . . . the last of an honored breed. The SBD has been the backbone of the Navy's air war in the Pacific. . . . At the passing of the gallant Pegasus, Navy airmen grew sentimental.

"Born in 1939 . . . the SBD was obsolescent by Pearl Harbor. But there was no plane ready to take its place. She had no bugs, no streaks of temperament; she was a thoroughly honest aircraft. She could take a frightful beating and stagger home on wings that sometimes looked like nutmeg graters.

"Throughout the rugged, uphill fight after Pearl Harbor, SBDs did their share and more, from Guadalcanal to Casablanca. They won glory at the Coral Sea and at Midway, were still out in front when the fleet began its winning drive across the Pacific. This week they were still in action at Guam and wherever the fleet struck, and they had just hung a new naval battle record on the wall: among the 95 U.S. planes lost in the Battle of the Philippine Sea (TIME, July 3) there was not one Dauntless.

"No one was much surprised. In the SBD's long record at war it had piled up another which is even more impressive: its loss ratio is the lowest of all U.S. carrier aircraft in the Pacific. So when the last SBD squadron commander gives the last take-off order — 'Pilots, man your clunks' — the time-honored crack will not be in scorn. It will be a hail and farewell!"



SPECIFICATIONS

PERFORMANCE

253 mph high speed
970 miles (internal fuel only)
2 — .50 cal. fixed forward firing guns
Twin .30 cal. flexible guns firing to rear
1 1600-lb. bomb on center rack or
2 100-lb. or
2 350-lb. depth bombs on wing racks

DESCRIPTION DIMENSIONS:

Span: 41' 6"
Length overall: 33'
Height overall: 14' 7"
Weight: 9298 lbs. gross
Power Plants: Wright R1820-66
* 1200 horsepower

SPEED:

RANGE:

ARMAMENT:

BOMBS: