Named after William Mitchell, the leading exponent of American air power between the wars, the B-25 earned undying fame for the Tokyo raid of 1942 when 16 Mitchells led by “Jimmy” Doolittle flew from the deck of the carrier U.S. Hornet to carry out the attack that had been thought impossible.

The Mitchell development, however, started long before this when North American Aviation designed the NA-40 to meet a U.S. Army specification in 1938. The NA-40 first flew in 1939 and was showing every sign of success when the prototype crashed after only a few weeks of test flying. The project was redesigned with improved armament and bomb load and a contract was awarded in September, 1939, one of the first aircraft to be ordered “off the drawing board.”

As the B-25, the first production Mitchell flew in August, 1940, and as the first batch was being delivered further aircraft were being built with modifications based upon combat reports from Europe. At the time of Pearl Harbor B-25’s were already in service and on December 24th, 1941, a Mitchell became the first American medium bomber to sink a Japanese submarine.

Mitchell development continued and in 1942 Mitchells began to be exported to Great Britain and the Soviet Union; by the end of the war the R.A.F. had received over 800 and the Soviet Air Force about the same amount. In the Pacific Mitchells were being used increasingly for attacking ground targets and ships with machine gun fire, and it was decided to introduce a specialized attack version mounting a 75 mm. cannon, the largest gun to be used in aircraft operations, along with fourteen 0.5 in. machine guns and 3,000 lbs. of bombs made the B-25 H one of the most well armed aircraft in the world.

The last version of Mitchell to be produced and the type built in largest numbers was the B-25 J; — of some 10,000 built over 4,000 were J versions. This version returned to the bomber role and had a glazed nose position for the bombardier. Some of these however were modified in the field to accept a solid nose with eight machine guns, giving a grand total of eighteen, considerably more armament than was carried by the “ heavies”.

The B-25 J was powered by two Wright Cyclone engines, each of 1,850 h.p. giving a maximum speed of 280 m.p.h. with full load of 1,275 miles. Armament consisted of thirteen 0.5 in. machine guns (eighteen in the attack version) and maximum bomb load was 4,000 lbs. Span was 47 ft. 7 ins. and length 52 ft. 11 ins.

**IMPORTANT! READ THIS FIRST**

- Study assembly drawings carefully before starting.
- Each part is identified by a part number (14).
- Scrape paint from areas to be cemented.
- Before cement is used, check the fit of each part.
- Use only enough cement to join parts.
- Apply cement to small parts with a toothpick.
- Use cement made for styrene plastic only.
- Allow paint to dry thoroughly before handling.
- Your model may be painted to match the box photos.
- Cement all parts except where Do Not Cement symbol is shown.
- Follow the step numbers in each assembly drawing.
- Refer to other assembly drawing for location.
- Refer to last page for decal and painting instructions.

© 1982 Fundimensions, Division of CPG Products Corp.