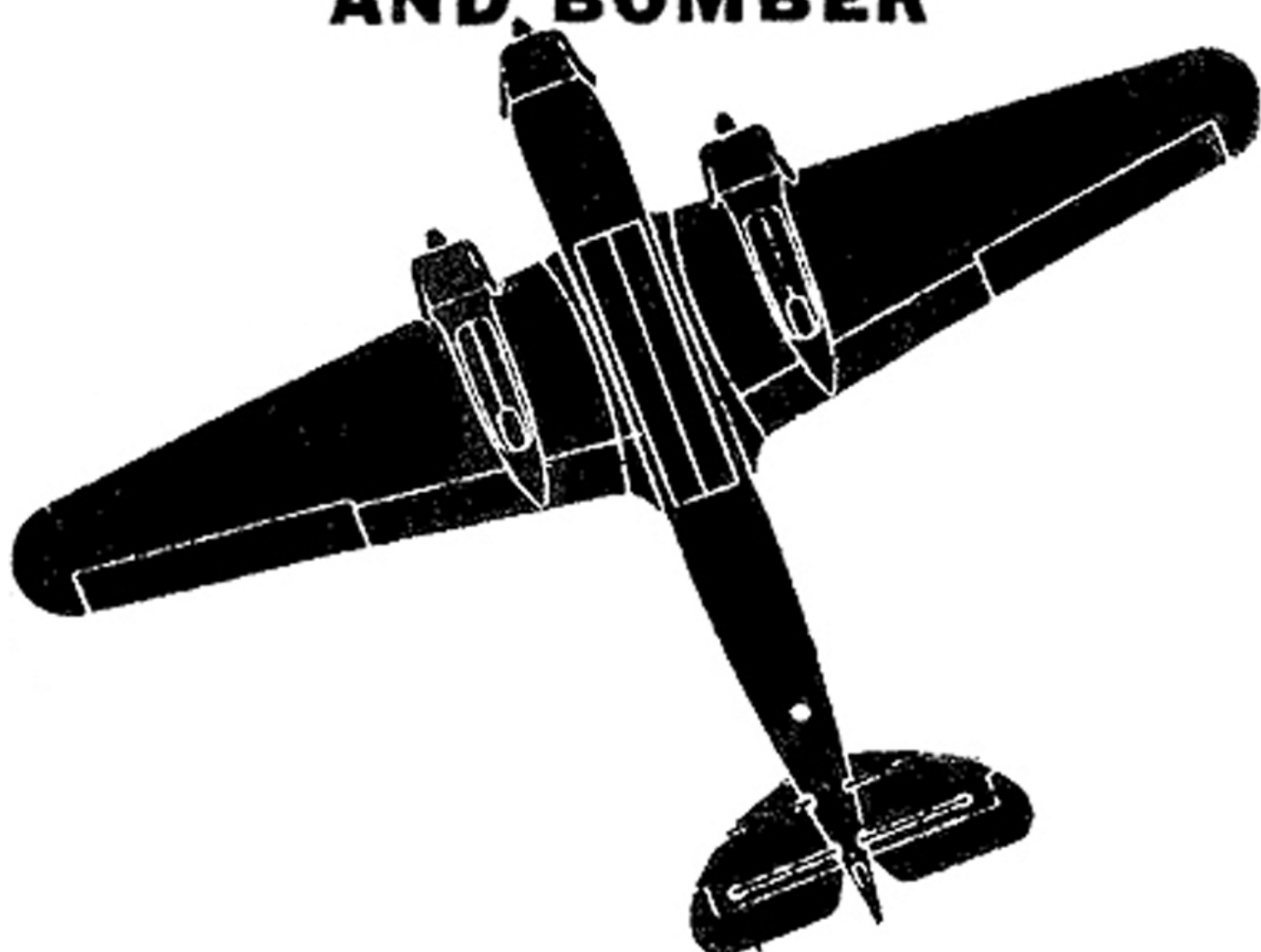


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FIGHTING PLANE OF THE WEEK

SAVOIA MARCHETTI SM 82 "CANGURU" ITALIAN TRANSPORT AND BOMBER



Since the early part of the war, the SM-82 has played a major role in ferrying German and Italian troops to the Northern part of Africa. Now, as Hitler and Mussolini rush troops to strengthen the defense of Tunisia, this giant transport is shuttling back and forth between Italy and Africa, almost constantly.

The normal capacity of the SM-82 is 40 fully-equipped soldiers. However, in time of emergency it is reported to carry as many as 51. This is comparable to the load carried by the Curtiss-Wright "Commando".



LEARN THESE CHARACTERISTICS

- TYPE: Land monoplane; 3 motors.
- WING: Slightly dihedral; sweptback; tapered; round tip; low wing.
- TAIL: Single fin and rudder on horizontal tailplane.
- NOTE: Three radial air-cooled motors; comparatively long slender fuselage.

TREMENDOUS RANGE

The most outstanding feature of the SM-82 is its range. Officially reported as 7350 miles at 143 m.p.h., other reports state that the plane has covered an 8000 mile closed course without refueling. Because of this great range, the SM-82 is frequently used as a bomber. When acting in this capacity, it carries a 6600 pound bomb load.

The only defensive armament of the SM-82 is a power-operated turret on top of the fuselage, mounting two 7.7 mm guns. The maximum speed reported for this plane is 230 m.p.h. at 8,200 feet. The service ceiling is in the neighborhood of 20,000 feet.