

# ★ America's Alertmen ★

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## **Fighting Plane Of The Week**

**VULTEE "VENGEANCE" • U.S. A-31 DIVE BOMBER**



### **Learn These Characteristics**

**TYPE:** Land monoplane; single engine.

**WING:** Outer section dihedral; inner section swept-back, outer section straight; inner section straight, outer tapered; square tips; mid-wing.

**TAIL:** Single fin and rudder on horizontal tailplane.

**NOTE:** Radial, air-cooled engine; blunt nose; prominent greenhouse; oddly shaped wings.

1200' miles.

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Vultee Vengeance dive-bombers were ordered by the R.A.F. in July, 1940, after the German successes in the West indicated a need for this type of plane. Other planes were given priority, however, and only recently has the A-31 gone into large-scale production, both for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and the R.A.F. It is expected that this plane will be particularly effective against point targets and as a torpedo-carrying attack bomber with the Fleet.

The unusual wing shape of the Vengeance is said to be caused by the discovery that the center of horizontal gravity was further back than expected. Whatever the cause, the A-31's wing provides a good guide for the spotter.

### **MAXIMUM SPEED 300 M.P.H.**

Powered by a radial Wright Cyclone of 1700 H.P., the Vultee A-31 has a maximum speed of 300 m.p.h. and a cruising speed of 240 m.p.h. and carries a crew of three. Its armament consists of four .50-caliber machine guns in the wings, two .30-caliber guns in a power turret in the rear of the greenhouse, and one .30-caliber as a stinger through the bottom of the fuselage in the rear of the greenhouse. Bombs are stowed internally in the fuselage below the floor of the cockpit.

The Vengeance is of all-metal construction and has a span of 48 feet and a length of 40 feet. Its range at cruising speed is 1200 miles.