

THE BOMBERS

B-25 Mitchell	Wing span	Length	Bomb load (lb)	Crew	Range (miles)	Cruise Speed (mph)	Service ceiling (feet)
Manufacturer North American Aviation	67'7"	54'1" BCJ 54'11" GH 51'	2,400 3,000 A 3,200 H 4,000 J	4-6	1,500 miles	315 A 300 B 284 CG 275 HJ	27,000 A 24,000 later models
Engines	2 x 1,700hp Wright 14-cylinder radials						
Armament	Initial: (see notes below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x 0.50-inch tail • twin 0.30-inch waist • 1 x 0.30-inch nose 						
Notes:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total made: 9,816 – constructed in larger quantities than any other US twin-engine bomber. • The B-25 was progressively improved through the war, with armour; self-sealing fuel tanks following the initial model; and the armament steadily becoming more formidable. • B: twin 0.5-inch guns in an electric dorsal turret and a retractable ventral turret (tail gun removed) • G: 75mm gun, and two 0.5-inch guns in the nose, and four 0.5-inch guns on the sides of the nose. • H: 75mm gun and 14 x 0.5-inch • J: 13 x 0.5-inch (attack version with another 5) • The “strafer” version of the B-25 originated under the leadership of Fifth Air Force chief George Kenney in New Guinea, to replace tanks and heavy artillery which, he wrote, “have no place in jungle warfare”. They were also known as “commerce destroyers” for their usefulness in sinking ships. 							



This B-25C Mitchell N5-128 was delivered to No. 18 (NEI) Squadron on 24 August 1942 and ferried to McDonald in the Northern Territory on 27 December 1942. It commenced flying operations there the following month and successfully completed around fifty missions. Profiled as it appeared in late 1944, the Walt Disney hatchling Donald Duck appeared on both sides of the nose. Note the darker area on the fuselage where the original US insignia has been painted out. Following its last mission from Batchelor on 5 January 1945, the airframe was stripped down to natural metal finish and it was used as a transport. Both Donald Duck logos were retained, with a black anti-glare panel painted on the nose. However the aircraft did not last long in this configuration, as it was lost in an accident on 20 January 1945.