

INTRODUCTION TO THE VULTEE V-1A

by

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The Vultee V-1A is familiar to most of us, but a great deal of work remains to be done on the full story of this plane. It is hoped that the following outline and table will provide a stimulus to the members to organize their information to see if anything additional can be submitted.

The V-1A was an advanced design all-metal ten place transport with retractable landing gear and a 735 h.p. Wright Cyclone engine. The total number built is unknown, one of the many questions remaining to be answered, but it would seem to be about 27. The span was 50', length 37', and listed maximum speed 225 m.p.h. Further details on this plane may be found by reading the references listed.

One item that needs to be known is the racing number for NC-14255, the Crusader Oil Company entry in the 1936 Bendix Race. This plane came in third in 15 hours 45 min and 52 sec., with four persons aboard. It is perhaps of interest to compare this flight with that made by Jimmie Doolittle in NE-13770 in January 1935 in which he flew non-stop from Burbank to New York in 11 hours, 59 min, breaking all records for passenger aircraft and within 11.7 minutes of Turners race record. He fought bad weather all the way and indicated later that it could have been done in 1½ hours less but for the weather.

One V-1A was fitted with twin floats for Levanevsky of Russia and registered CCCP-H208. The identify of this plane is unknown. Is this the plane that was later lost in the Arctic?

Table 1. Production Listing of V-1A

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Owners - Remarks</u>
1	X-12293	American Airlines ("Model V-1")
2	NC-13764	A.A.
3	NC-13765	A.A.; Canadian Colonial Airlines (Probably CF-AWQ)
4	NC-13766	A.A.
5	NC-13767	A.A.
6	NC-13768	A.A.
7	NC-13769	A.A.
8	NC-13770	A.A.; Harry Richman "Lady Peace"; to Spain
9	NC-13771	A.A.; Vimalert Co.; Intercontinent Corp.
10	NC-13772	A.A.
11	NC-13773	A.A.
12	NC-14248	A.A.; Bowen Air Lines
13	NC-14249	A.A.
14	NC-14250	A.A.; S.F. Examiner; Hearst Publications Inc.
15	-	Unknown
16	NC-22077	Link Aero Corp.; Alaska Star Airlines.

17	-	Unknown
18	NC-11252	George P. Fuller, San Francisco. "Special".
19	NC-11253	Bowen Air Lines
20	NC-11254	Bowen Air Lines
21	NC-11255	Richardson & Watts Inc, N.Y.C.; Crusader Oil Co.
22	NC-11256	E. L. Cord, Chicago; B. E. Smith, Bedford, N.Y.
23	NC-16000	Vimalert Company, N.J.; Intercontinent Corp, N.Y.
24	-	Unknown
25	NC-16099	William R. Hearst; Hearst Publications Inc.; Kane Products Inc.; Shelton, Conn. "Special".
26	NC-17326	Vimalert Company; Intercontinent Corp.
27	-	Unknown; May not be a V-1A.

Suggested reading for additional information and background detail;

1. Aviation, April 1933, p.128. Excellent article on original plane.
2. Aero Digest, August 1934, p.58
3. Aviation, August 1934, p.269
4. Aircraft Year Book 1935, p.244
5. Aero Digest, April 1936, p.96
6. Western Flying, March 1937, p.50
7. Janes All The Worlds Aircraft 1937, p.335c
8. New York Times; 15 January 1936 p.4; 16 January 1936 p.19, 4 September 1936 p.9, 5 September 1936 p.1. Details of cross country flight and Bendix Race.
9. New York Times, 1 January 1937 p.16; 6 January 1937 p.12; 29 January 1937 p.3; 20 February 1937 p.6; 12 March 1937 p.17. Details of shipment of "Lady Peace" to Spain on the S.S. Mar Cantabrico. Final ending uncertain.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- Fig. 1 Lockheed Orion UC-85 in A.A.F. markings. See article on page 4.
- Fig. 2 Lockheed Orion in civil markings before entering A.A.F.
- Fig. 3 Vultee V-1A, registered HP-158 from Panama, which arrived at Los Angeles in November 1955. The identity of this plane is still unknown, but external details indicate it is probably #25, formerly NC-16099.
- Fig. 4 Ryan C-1 on which details are requested. Was the flight made? What was the date? Was the plane lost? Who was the owner and/or pilot? This photo was taken in the New York City area about 1938.
- Fig. 5 Unknown airplane on which details are requested. This photo was taken in the Los Angeles area about 1947 and no further information is available. What is the name of the manufacturer? When was it built? Engine? Where is it now?



Fig. 1 Lockheed UC-85

Lockheed

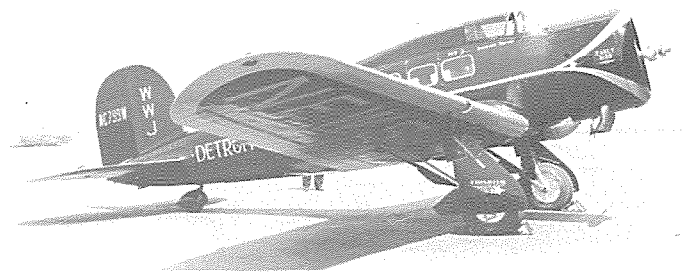


Fig. 2 Lockheed Orion 9-D2 G.S.Williams

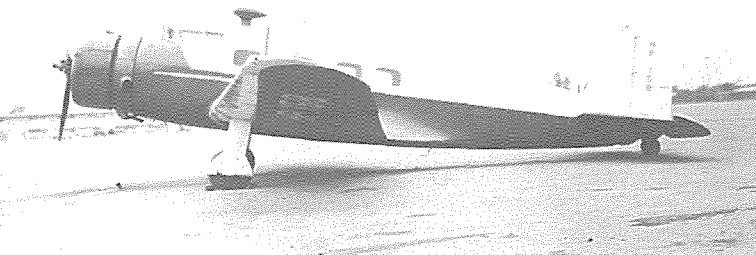


Fig. 3 Vultee V-1A

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Fig. 4 Ryan C-1

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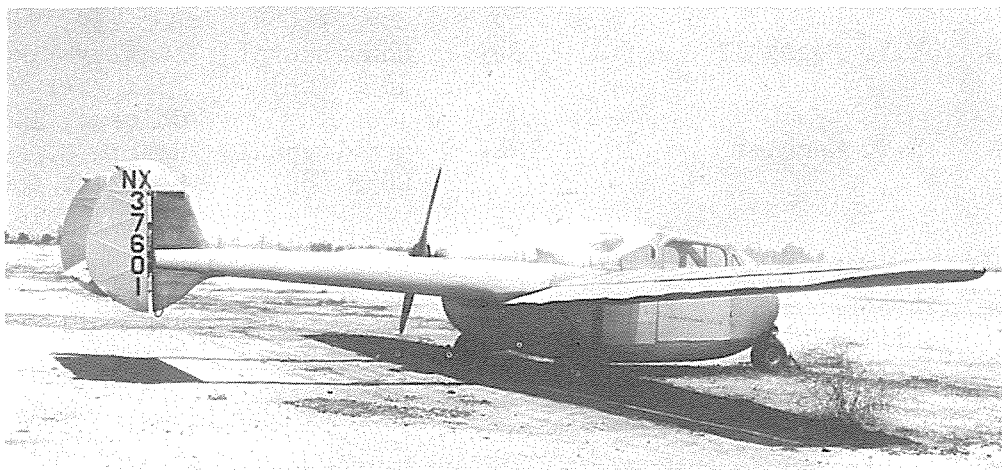


Fig. 5 Unknown

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