

ROBERT KRAUSKOPF *
National Archives

NATIONAL GUARD
AVIATION, 1940 - 41

In Volume 1, No. 2, of the Journal (April-June 1956) William T. Larkins discussed at some length the history of pre-1942 National Guard Aviation. To supplement the information presented in that article, members may be interested in the following table, based on official sources, which lists the flying equipment of the National Guard by organization as of December 31, 1940, and, following complete induction into federal service, as of November 30, 1941.

It is significant that eight additional squadrons, not listed by Mr. Larkins, the 121st to 128th inclusive, were activated early in 1941. Their span of service under state auspices was brief, however, the last of them entering federal service during October 1941.

With regard to individual aircraft types, it will be noted that the single O-31B (Serial 32-231), depicted on p. 29 of Mr. Larkins' article, was still with the 108th Observation Squadron at the very eve of Pearl Harbor. BC-1A aircraft, which appear in 1940 in almost every squadron, evidently as training aircraft, were withdrawn as squadrons were brought into federal service. Of the Douglas O-38's, which had for so many years been the backbone of the National Guard units, only a handful remained at the outbreak of war: five B's, one D, and nine E's.

The introduction of liaison-type aircraft during 1941 is noteworthy. All of the older squadrons received a few O-49's (later L-1's), the total amounting to 59. Other liaison types beginning to come into service were the O-57 (L-2), of which 10 are accounted for on the 1941 roster, plus 3 O-58 (L-3), 12 O-58A (L-3A), and 25 O-59 (L-4) models. In addition, it is interesting to see that some of the O-52's expected out of the 1940 contract with Curtiss actually were delivered during 1941, but apparently did not reach any of the squadrons before they were inducted into federal service.

*Dr. Krauskopf is a frequent contributor to military journals on aviation matters. He published a two-part article on "The Army and the Strategic Bomber, 1930-1939" in the Summer 1958 and Winter 1958-1959 issues of Military Affairs.

National Guard Squadrons and Aircraft Assigned
December 31, 1940 to November 30, 1941

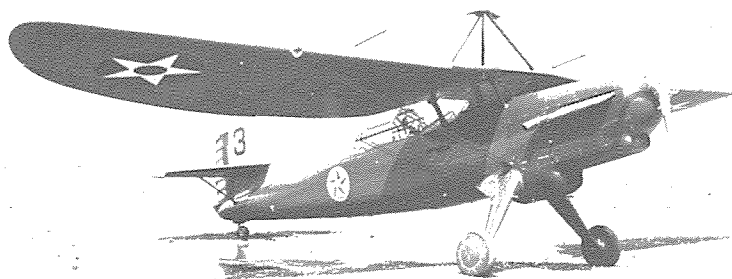
Unit	A/C Assg'd. 12-31-40	Location 1-24-41	A/C Assg'd. 11-30-41	Location 11-30-41	Date Entry Fed. Serv.	Remarks
Nat. Gd. Bureau	1 A-17A 1 C-37 1 O-47B	Bolling, Fld., D.C.	1 A-17A 1 C-37 1 C-56 1 O-47B	Bolling Fld., D.C.		Assg'd. to 1st Staff Squadron as of Nov. 1941
101st Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 6 O-46A 3 O-47A 1 O-47B	Boston Airport	4 O-46A 3 O-47A 1 O-47B 3 O-49 4 O-59	Camp Edwards, Mass.	11-25-40	Component of 26th Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941
102nd Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 6 O-46A 1 O-47A 1 O-47B	Reilly Fld., Ft. McClellan, Ala.	1 C-45A 6 O-46A 1 O-47A 1 O-47B 3 O-49 1 O-57	Reilly Fld., Ft. McClellan, Ala.	10-15-40	Component of 71st Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941. (C-45A detached at Birmingham Mun. Airport)
103rd Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 1 O-38B 6 O-46A 3 O-47A 1 O-47B	Philadelphia Mun. Airport	6 O-46A 2 O-47A 1 O-47B 3 O-49 1 O-57	Harrisburg, Pa.	2-17-41	
104th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 7 O-46A 3 O-47A 2 O-47B	Logan Fld., Baltimore	6 O-46A 1 O-47A 2 O-47B 3 O-49 6 O-59	Detrick Fld., Frederick, Md.	2-3-41	
105th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 1 O-38B 6 O-47A 2 O-47B	Camp Jackson, Columbia, S.C.	1 O-38B 1 O-47B 5 O-49 10 O-52	Columbia Army Air Base, S.C.	9-16-40	Component of 65th Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941

Unit	A/C Assg'd. 12-31-40	Location 1-24-41	A/C Assg'd. 11-30-41	Location 11-30-41	Date Entry Fed. Serv.	Remarks
106th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 1 0-38B 5 0-47A 4 0-47B	Birmingham Mun. Airport, Ala.	5 0-47A 4 0-47B 3 0-49	Birmingham Mun. Airport, Ala.	Nov. 25/40	
107th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 2 0-38E 5 0-47A 4 0-47B	Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La.	1 C-45A 2 0-47A 3 0-47B 1 0-49	Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La.	Oct. 15/40	
108th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 1 0-31B 3 0-38E 6 0-47A 4 0-47B	Chicago Mun. Airport	1 0-31B 4 0-47A 3 0-47B 3 0-49 3 0-52	Chicago Mun. Airport	2-3-41	Component of 72nd Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941.
109th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 1 0-38B 3 0-38E 5 0-47A 3 0-47B	Holman Fld , St. Paul, Minn.	5 0-47A 2 0-47B 2 0-49 6 0-58A	Camp Beauregard Alexandria, La.	2-10-41	
110th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 1 0-38B 1 0-38D 5 0-47A 3 0-47B	Adams Fld., Little Rock, Ark.	4 0-47A 3 0-47B 3 0-49	Adams Fld., Little Rock, Ark.	12-23-40	Component of 71st Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941.
111th Obs. Sq	1 BC-1A 6 0-43A 3 0-47A 2 0-47B	Mun. Airport, Brownwood, Tex.	5 0-43A 3 0-47A 1 0-47B 3 0-49 4 0-52 6 0-59	Mun. Airport, Brownwood, Tex.	11-25-40	

Unit	A/C Assg'd 12-31-40	Location 1-24-41	A/C Assg'd. 11-30-41	Location 11-30-41	Date Entry Fed. Serv.	Remarks
112th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 1 0-38E 5 0-47A 3 0-47B	Pope Fld., Ft. Bragg, N.C.	6 0-47A 2 0-47B 3 0-49 1 0-57	Pope Fld., Ft. Bragg N.C.	11-25-40	
113th Obs. Sq.	2 0-38B 5 0-47A 4 0-47B	Stout Fld., Indianapolis	2 0-47A 2 0-47B 1 0-49 1 0-52	Key Fld., Meridian, Miss.	1-17-41	
115th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 1 0-38B 2 0-38E 2 0-47A 4 0-47B	Griffith Park, Los Angeles	1 BC-1A 2 0-47A 1 0-38B 3 0-47B 3 0-49	Paso Robles, California	3-3-41	
116th Obs. Sq.	2 0-38B 2 0-38E 6 0-47A 2 0-47B	Gray Fld., Ft. Lewis, Wash.	6 0-47A 2 0-47B 3 0-49	Gray Fld., Ft. Lewis Wash.	9-16-40	Component of 70th Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941.
118th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 7 0-46A 3 0-47A	Brainard Fld., Hartford, Conn.	1 C-45A 7 0-46A 3 0-47A 3 0-49 4 0-57 1 0-58 5 0-59	Jacksonville Mun. Airport	2-24-41	Component of 66th Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941.
119th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 7 0-46A 2 0-47A 1 0-47B	Newark Airport Newark, N.J.	3 0-47A 3 0-49 10 0-52	Newark Airport Newark, N.J.	9-16-40	
120th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 6 0-47A 2 0-47B	Mun. Airport, Denver, Colo.	5 0-47A 2 0-47B 3 0-49	Biggs Fld., Bliss, Tex.	1-6-41	

Unit	A/C Assg'd 12-31-40	Location 1-24-41	A/C Assg'd 11-30-41	Location 11-30-41	Date Entry Fed. Serv.	Remarks
121st Obs. Sq.			1 0-38B 1 0-38E 1 0-46A 1 0-47B 4 0-58A 1 AT-6A	Columbia Army Air Base, S.C.	9-1-41	District of Columbia N.G. Federally re- cognized, 1941 Component of 65th Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941
122nd Obs. Sq.			2 0-38B 1 0-38E 1 0-46A 1 0-47A 1 BC-1A	New Orleans Army Air Base	10-1-41	Lousiana N.G. Federally re- cognized 3-2-41
123rd Obs. Sq.			1 0-46A 1 BC-1A	Gray Fld., Ft. Lewis, Wash.	9-15-41	Oregon N.G. Federally Re- cognized 1941.
124th Obs. Sq.			1 0-38D 1 0-38E 1 0-47A 1 BC-1A	Ft. Leavenworth Kansas	9-15-41	Iowa N.G. Fed- erally recog- nized 2-25-41. Component of 72nd Obs. Grp. as of Nov. 1941
125th Obs. Sq.			2 0-38E 1 0-47B 1 BC-1A	Post Fld., Ft. Sill, Okla.	9-15-41	Oklahoma N.G. Federally re- cognized 1941.
126th Obs. Sq.	1 BC-1A 1 0-47A	Mun. Airport Milwaukee, Wis.	1 0-46A 2 0-47A 1 0-47B 4 0-59 1 BC-1A	Ft. Dix, N.J.	6-2-41	Wisconsin N.G. Federally re- cognized 1941.

(Continued on Page 87)



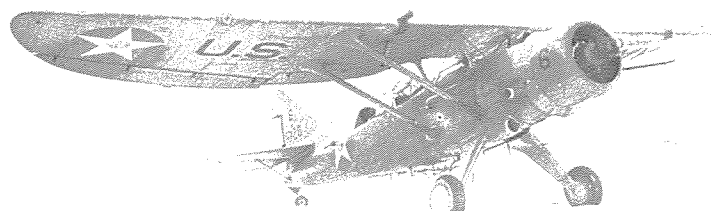
Douglas O-43A (Texas NG) ,

(Larkins)



Lockheed Y1C-37 (NG Bureau)

(Howard Levy)



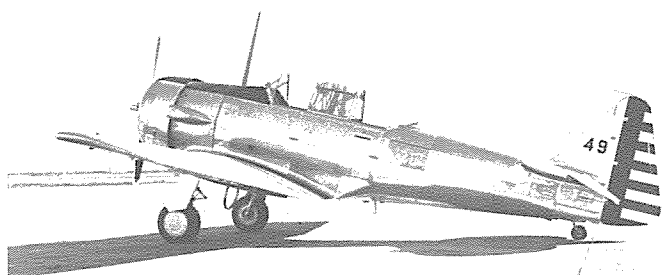
Douglas O-46A

(Larkins)



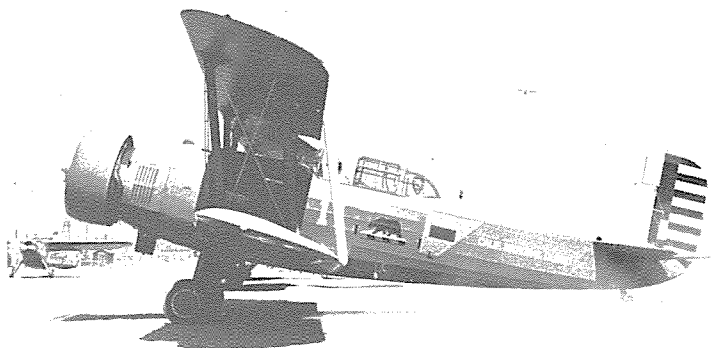
Stinson O-49

(Larkins)



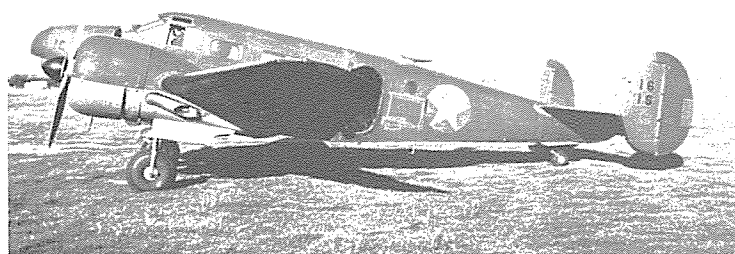
North American BC-1A (39-849)

(Larkins)



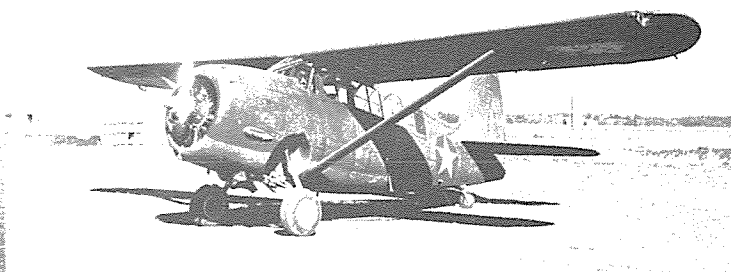
Douglas O-38E (33-4)

(Larkins)



Beech C-45A (41-1873)

(Larkins)



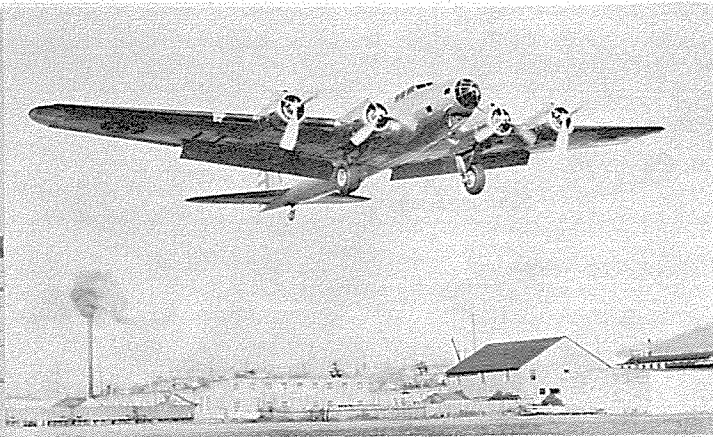
Curtiss O-52

(Larkins)



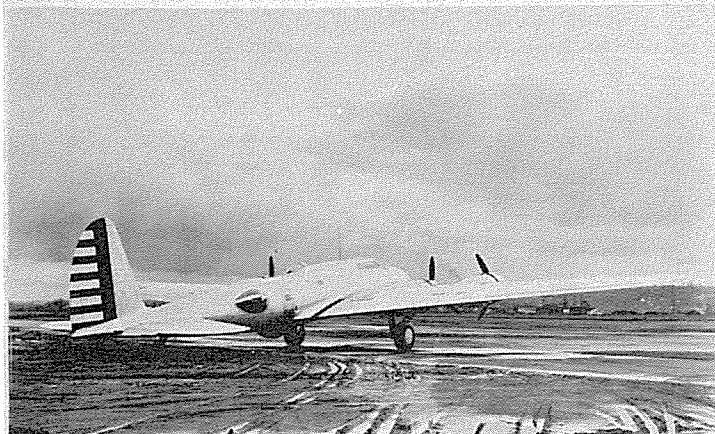
XB-17

(U.S.A.A.C.)



Y1B-17

(Boeing)



Y1B-17A

(Boeing)



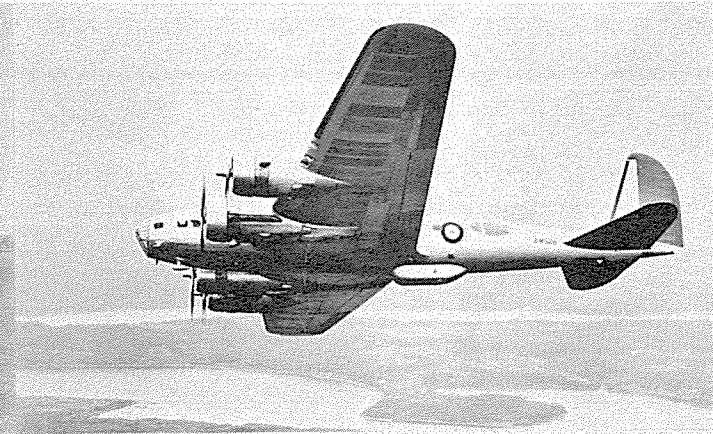
B-17B

(Boeing)



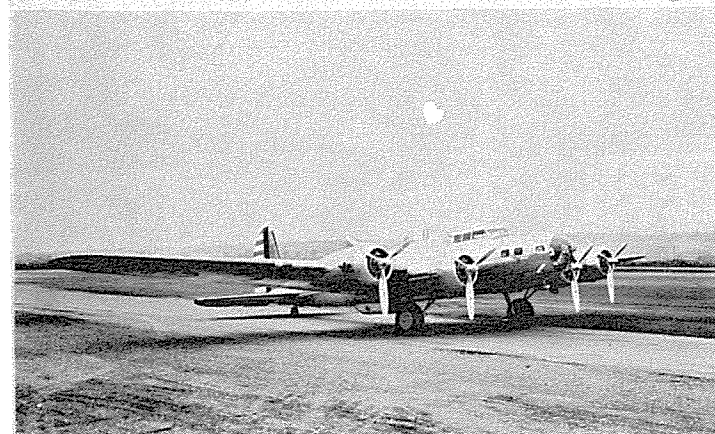
B-17C

(Boeing)



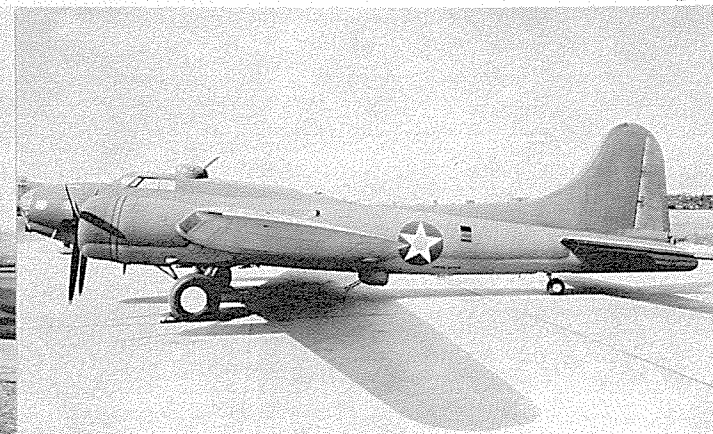
Fortress I

(Boeing)



B-17D

(Boeing)



B-17E

(Boeing)