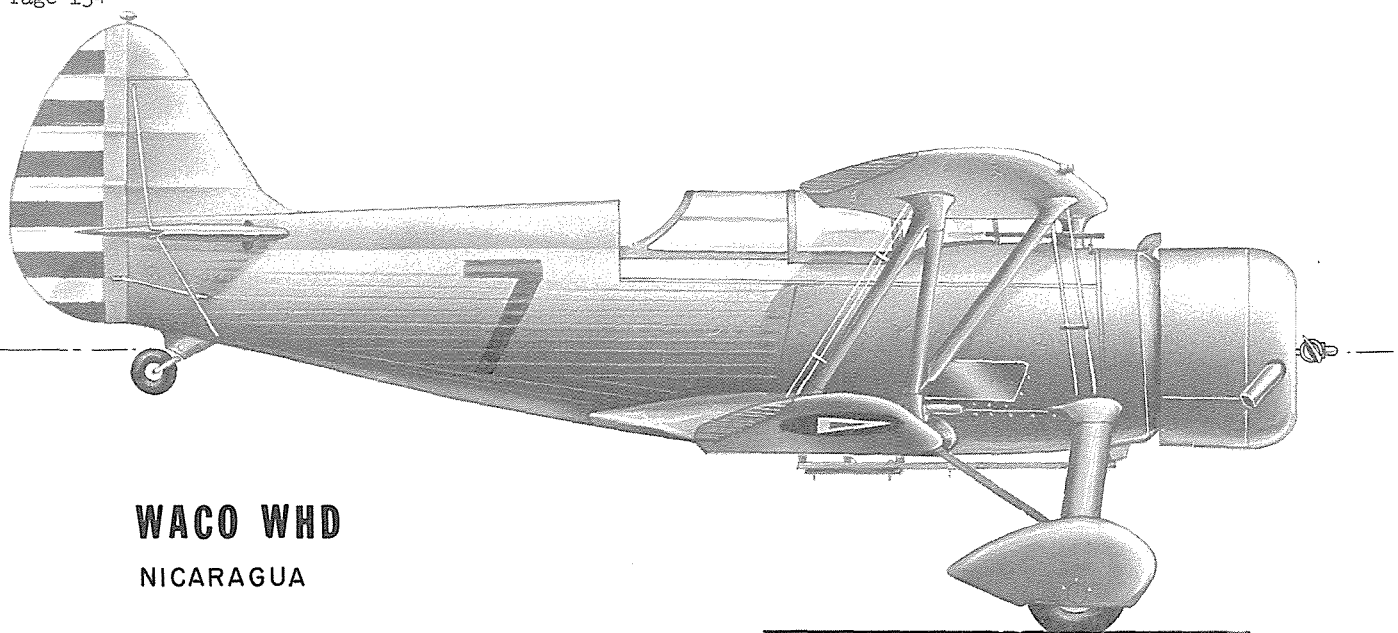




WACO WHD
NICARAGUA

Waco's Military "Ds"

By WALTER M. JEFFERIES, JR.

During 1937-38 the Waco Aircraft Company, Troy, Ohio, produced and exported a number of Model D biplanes to Latin American countries. The prototype WHD, the civilian S3HD and a WHD for Uruguay were depicted on the back cover of the Spring JOURNAL, Vol 9 No 1, while here we depict the S2HD for Cuba, the WHD for Nicaragua and the JHD for Uruguay (shown opposite in the markings they carried on delivery from the factory), and the WHD for Nicaragua (shown above as repainted and renumbered in 1939). Also, the right side view above is typical of all Wright powered "D" aircraft with the front exhaust coming out the right side of the cowl.

At least five JHD aircraft went to Uruguay, at least three WHD aircraft to Nicaragua and at least one S2HD went to Cuba. On some of the aircraft going to Nicaragua, the alternating blue and white tail stripes were sometimes painted with the first stripe blue and some-

times painted with the first stripe white.

All of these aircraft were equipped with two U. S. Army Air Corps A3 type bomb racks arranged in tandem. These racks accommodated five 25-pound bombs each, or two 125-pound demolition bombs on the front rack only. Original price of these aircraft ranged from \$16,650.00 for the JHD, to \$17,540.00 for the WHD, and \$18,305.00 for the S2HD.

General equipment and performance specifications for the military "D" aircraft were as follows, taken from official factory listings:

Waco Model JHD

Wright R-975-E-1, 365 hp @ 2100 RPM @ sea level. Basic trainer equipped with bomb racks, one fixed 30 caliber machine gun in lower right wing, one flexible 30 caliber machine gun in rear cockpit. High speed at sea level, 170 mph. Cruising speed at sea level, 150 mph. Cruising at optimum altitude, 155 mph. Initial rate of climb 1100 fpm. Service ceiling, 15,500 feet. Gross weight, 3800 pounds.

Waco Model WHD

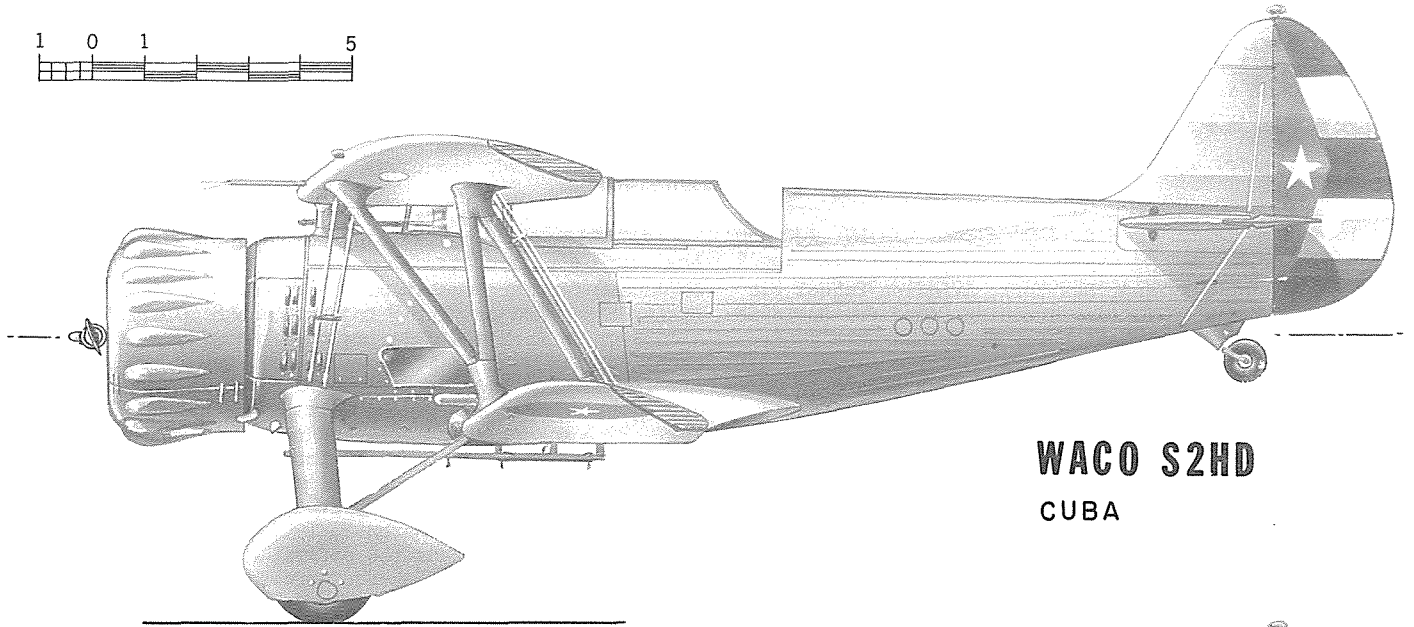
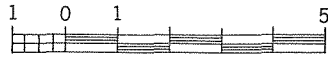
Wright R-975-E-3, 450 hp @ 2250 RPM @ sea level. Basic trainer equipped with bomb racks, one fixed 30 caliber machine gun in lower right wing, one flexible 30 caliber machine gun in rear cockpit. High speed at sea level, 180 mph. Cruising speed at sea level, 152 mph. Cruising speed at optimum altitude, 162 mph. Initial rate of climb, 1350 fpm. Service ceiling, 17,500 feet. Gross weight, 3800 pounds.

Waco Model S2HD

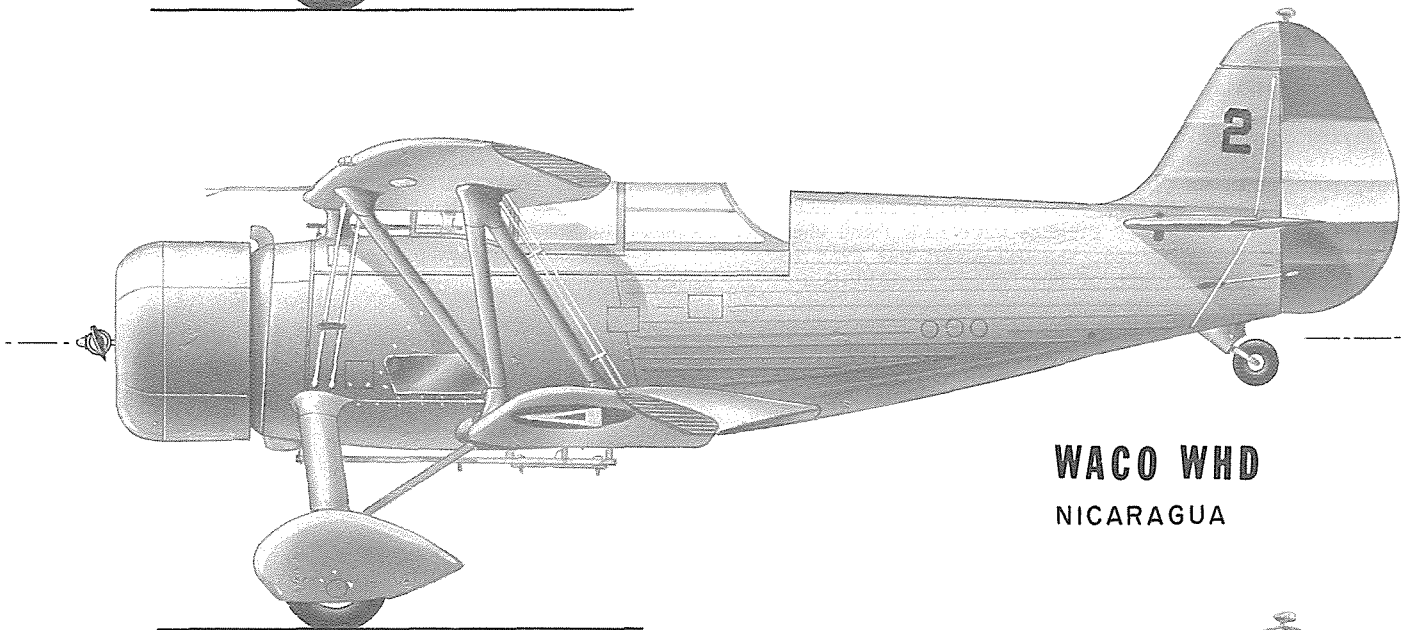
Pratt & Whitney Wasp Jr., Model SB, 450 hp @ 2300 RPM @ sea level. Basic trainer equipped with bomb racks, one flexible 30 caliber machine gun in each lower wing, one flexible 30 caliber machine gun in rear cockpit. High speed at sea level, 175 mph. Cruising speed at sea level, 150 mph. Cruising speed at optimum altitude, 158 mph. Initial rate of climb, 1300 fpm. Service ceiling, 18,000 feet. Gross weight, 3800 pounds.



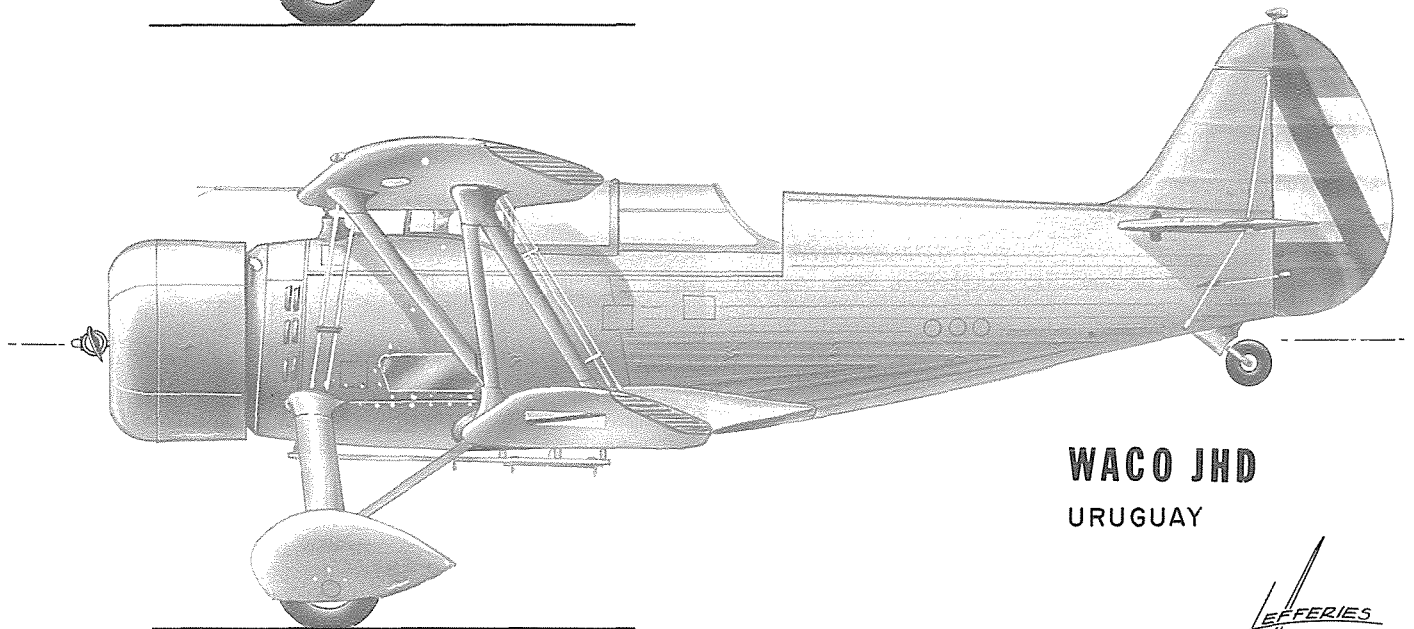
Standing by early "D" are Waco test pilots, Len Povey, John Livingston and Jimmy Lund. (Jefferies Collection)



WACO S2HD
CUBA



WACO WHD
NICARAGUA



WACO JHD
URUGUAY

