

# GRUMMAN F8F BEARCAT

## BEARCAT SERVICE

*Manufacturer:* The Grumman Aircraft Engr. Corp., Bethpage, Long Is.,  
New York, USA

*Model:* G-58

*Designations:* F8F; F3M

*Name:* Bearcat

*First official flight:* XF8F-1 31 Aug 1944

*Factory production period:* 1944 – 1949

*Primary service period:* 1945 – 1953

*Last official flight:* F8F-1D / -2D 1956

## BEARCAT VARIANTS

1944	<b>Model G-58</b>	<b>XF8F-1</b>	2	
1945	<b>Model G-58</b>	<b>F8F-1 / -1B / -1N</b>	770	
1947	<b>Model G-58</b>	<b>F8F-1B</b>	126	<b>Total: 0898</b>
1948	<b>Model G-58</b>	<b>F8F-2 / -2N / -2P</b>	365	<b>Total: 0365</b>
1947	<b>Model G-58A / B</b>	<b>Model G-58A / B</b>	2	<b>Total: 0002</b>
				<b><u>Total: 1265</u></b>

## BEARCAT PRODUCTION

### Military Aircraft

#### **XF8F-1**

*Prototype single seat, carrier-based fighter.*

*produced 1944*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 90460, 90461 D-01, D-02

2 **Total: 0002**

#### **F8F-1 / -1B / -1N**

*As XF8F-1, engine upgrade, dorsal fin,  
minor changes.*

*658 as **F8F-1** fighters.*

*100 as **F8F-1B** wing cannons.*

*12 as **F8F-1N** night-fighters.*

*produced 1944 – 1947*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 90437 / 90459 D-1 / D-23

BuNo. 94752 / 95498 D-24 / D-770

770 **Total: 0770**

*5253 additional airframes cancelled.*

## F8F-1B

As F8F-1, four 20mm wing cannons.

Original designation was **F8F-1C**.

produced 1947 – 1948

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 121463 / 121522 mixed D-837 to D-1261

BuNo. 122087 / 122152 D-771 / D-836

126 **Total: 0126**

## F8F-2 / -2N / -2P

As XF8F-2, four 20mm wing cannons.

293 as **F8F-1** fighters.

12 as **F8F-2N** night-fighters.

60 as **F8F-1P** photo reconn. version.

produced 1948 – 1949

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 121523 / 121792 mixed D-867 to D-1186

BuNo. 122614 / 122708 mixed D-1143 to D1261

365 **Total: 0365**

## Model G-58A / G-58B

Civil demonstration version.

NX120IV: **G-58A Gulfhawk IV** (F8F-1),

later to civil reg: NL3025.

N700A: **G-58B Redship** (F8F-2),

later to civil reg: N7700C.

produced 1947, 1949

Grumman Bethpage, New York

NX120IV D-739A

N700A D-1262

2 **Total: 0002**

*F3M-1 – 1945, General Motors Corp. order for 1876 cancelled.*

**Total: 1265**

## **BEARCAT CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS**

### **US Navy**

F8F-1D 1+ F8F-1, 1949, drone director conversions.

F8F-1DB 1+ F8F-1B, unofficial designation for cannon armed French aircraft.

F8F-1E 1 F8F-1, 1945, night-fighter prototype, APS-4 radar.

**XF8F-1N 2** F8F-1 (BuNo. 94812, 94819), 1945, night-fighter prototypes, APS-19 radar.

F8F-1P 1 F8F-1, 1946, photo reconnaissance conversion.

**XF8F-2 2** F8F-1 (BuNo. 95049, 95330), 1947, engine upgrade, revised engine cowling, taller tail.

F8F-2D 1+ F8F-2, drone director conversions.

### **FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE**

- *Bearcats in service with the air forces of France S. Vietnam and Thailand.*

- *Several sold on the civil market as circuit racers and warbirds.*