

DOUGLAS SBD DAUNTLESS

DAUNTLESS SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Douglas Aircraft Co. Inc., Santa Monica, California, USA

Model: -

Designations: SBD; A-24, BT, F-24

Names: Dauntless; Banshee (A-24)

First official flight: XBT-2 22 Apr 1938
SBD-1 01 May 1940

Factory production period: 1940 – 1944

Primary service period: 1940 – 1944

Last official flight: ZQ / ZDF-24 01 Nov 1951

DAUNTLESS VARIANTS

1940	Model -	SBD-1	57	
1940	Model -	SBD-2	87	Total: 0144
1941	Model -	SBD-3	585	
1941	Model -	A-24	168	Total: 0753
1942	Model -	SBD-4	780	
1942	Model -	A-24A	170	Total: 0950
1943	Model -	SBD-5	2965	
1943	Model -	SBD-5A	60	
1943	Model -	A-24B	615	Total: 3640
1944	Model -	SBD-6	450	Total: 0450
				<u>Total: 5937</u>

DAUNTLESS PRODUCTION

XBT-2

1938, prototype carrier-based scout / diver bomber.

*Airframe a production **Northrop BT-1** (BuNo. 0627, 55 built), heavily modified and redesignated as the **XBT-2**.*

*Further modified by Douglas as the **XSBD-1** (new c/n: 330).*

SBD-1

As XSBD-1, revised cowling, engine upgrade, prop spinner, 3 guns (1 rear facing).

produced 1940

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 1596 / 1631 549 / 584

BuNo. 1735 / 1755 585 / 605

57 Total: 0057

SBD-2

As SBD-1, combat mods, more fuel.

produced 1940 – 1941

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 2102 / 2188 628 / 714

87 **Total: 0087**

1 (BuNo. 2109), crashed before delivery.

SBD-3

As SBD-2, engine, 4 gun upgrade.

produced 1941 – 1942

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 4518 / 4568 751 / 801

BuNo. 4569 / 4645 803 / 955 (*odd numbers*)

BuNo. 4646 / 4691 957 / 1002

BuNo. 2109 1003

- Replacement for crashed SBD-2.

BuNo. 03185 / 03384 1007 / 1206

BuNo. 06492 / 06701 *mixed* 1229 to 1516

585 **Total: 0585**

18 to RNZAF as NZ5001 / NZ5018.

A-24

USAAF version of the SBD-3, no arrester

hook, larger tail wheel, US Navy designation

SBD-3A. *Many delivered as A-24A.*

produced 1941; 1942

Douglas El Segundo, California (DE)

41-15746 / 41-15823 802 / 956 (*even numbers*)

42-6682 / 42-6771 *mixed* 1209 to 1526

168 **Total: 0168**

SBD-4

As SBD-3, prop / spinner upgrade.

24-volt electrical system, minor changes.

produced 1942 – 1943

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 06702 / 06991 *mixed* 1547 to 2246

BuNo. 10317 / 10806 *mixed* 2247 to 2970

780 **Total: 0780**

27 to RNZAF as NZ5019 / NZ5045.

A-24A

USAAF version of the SBD-4.

US Navy designation SBD-4A.

produced 1942 – 1943

Douglas El Segundo, California (DE)

42-6772 / 42-6831 *mixed* 1527 to 1811

42-60772 / 42-60881 *mixed* 1812 to 2728

170 **Total: 0170**

SBD-5

As SBD-4, cowling top intake deleted,

engine upgrade, minor changes.

produced 1943 – 1944

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 10807 / 11066 *mixed* 2236 to 3405

BuNo. 28059 / 29213 3406 / 4560

BuNo. 35922 / 36421 4561 / 5060

- 1 (BuNo. 35950), converted to an SBD-6.

BuNo. 36433 / 36932 5061 / 5560

BuNo. 54050 / 54599 5564 / 6113

2965 **Total: 2965**

23 to RNZAF as NZ5046 / NZ5068.

SBD-5A

As A-24B, deliveries to USMC.

produced 1943

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

42-60882 / 42-60941

Delivered to USMC as:

BuNo. 09693 / 09722 3236 / 3265

BuNo. 09723 / 09752 3361 / 3390

60 **Total: 0060**

A-24B

USAAF version of the SBD-5.

*US Navy designation **SBD-5A**.*

produced 1943

Douglas Tulsa, Oklahoma (DT)

42-54285 / 42-54899 17124 / 17738

615 **Total: 0615**

585 additional airframes cancelled.

SBD-6

As SBD-5, engine upgrade, more fuel, ASV

*radar. 1 (BuNo. 35950) **SBD-5** also converted.*

produced 1944

Douglas El Segundo, California (D)

BuNo. 54600 / 55049 6114 / 6563

450 **Total: 0450**

SBD-6A – Prototype for a USAAF equivalent, cancelled. Selected prototype aircraft (BuNo. 35922) delivered as an SBD-5.

Total: 5937

DAUNTLESS CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

US Navy

SBD-1P	8	SBD-1, conversion for photo reconnaissance.
SBD-2P	14	SBD-2, conversion for photo reconnaissance.
SBD-3P	43	SBD-3, conversion for photo reconnaissance.
XSBD-6	1	SBD-5 (BuNo. 28830), 1943, factory converted prototype for the SBD-6.

USAAF / USAF

RA-24	1+	A-24, 1942, redesignation as “restricted” from combat.
RA-24A	1+	A-24A, 1942, redesignation as “restricted” from combat. Redesignated as F-24A in 1948 for clerical purposes.
EZF-24A	1	F-24A (42-6783), 1949-1951, radio-controlled drone, new s/n: 48-044. Redesignated as ZQF-24A in 1951.
RA-24B	1+	A-24B, 1943, redesignation as “restricted” from combat. Redesignated as F-24B in 1948 for clerical purposes.
EZF-24B	1	F-24B (42-54664), 1949-1951, drone control aircraft, new s/n: 48-045. Redesignated as ZDF-24B in 1951.

British RAF / Royal Navy

Dauntless DB.Mk. I	9	SBD-5, 1944-1945, to RAF/ RN for evaluation. Assigned RAF s/n: JS997 / JS999, JT923 / JT928.
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FOREIGN MILITARY SERVICE

- SBDs used by French and Mexican Air Forces during and after WW2.