A-26 Invader, New and Fastest All-Purpose Bomber In Action

The A-26 Invader, newest and fastest all-purpose bomber of the Army Air Forces, is now seeing action, the War Department reported today.

It is designed to carry such an extremely flexible selection of machineguns, cannon, bombs and fuel that its offensive striking power is expected to be adaptable to almost any combat situation.

Combining heavy firepower and bomb capacity with great speed, this twin-engined Douglas-built plane was designed specifically for either low or medium altitude operations against enemy aircraft on the ground, tanks and troops on the march or in bivouac, towns harboring enemy troops, anti-aircraft emplacements, supply dumps, wharves and naval vessels.

One of the unusual developments in the Invader is the "all-purpose nose." It enables the plane to be equipped on the production line with equipment—in addition to standard armament—for special missions. This saves a trip to a modification center, and, furthermore, it can be done quickly and easily.

Public attention was first directed to the role of the attack plane in this war when the Nazis' Stuka divebombers slashed the Polish army to pieces in 1930. But not much more than a year later the Stuka proved a failure when it was knocked out of the sky by the British. Although it still did a devastating job against weak and undefended targets, its lack of defensive armament made it a clay pigeon for fast Allied fighters. Our own A-24s met a similar fate.

A plane had to be developed that could carry out the A-24's primary mission — paving the way for troops by knocking out ground installations. As the AAF saw it, there was but one way. That was the providing of a fast, light bomber with heavy firepower striking at low altitudes—an adaptation of attack aviation which the AAF had originated years before with the Curtis Falcon and the A-17.

DOUGLAS A-26 INVADER—This all-purpose medium bomber, AAF's newest, fastest and deadliest, striking from tree-top altitudes with heavy, variegated firepower and bomb load, was announced today. Armament, still secret, has been deleted from photo.

Thus did the attack bomber come into its own. In England, Africa and the South Pacific A-20s and Beaufighters strafed and bombed the enemy and fought their way back to bases. Then came the A-36, a revamped Mustang used as an attack plane in Sicily. Others called upon to press home the new tactical offensive were B-26s, with a dozen guns, speeding over the channel on sneak raids; B-25s with 75-mm cannon smashing Jap shipping; even B-17s used for low flying attack missions in New Guinea. Now, drawing heavily upon combat experience with those planes, comes the Invader, the speediest bomber ever built in this country.

Douglas, which fathered the A-24 and A-20, now has the new bomber in mass production and has made possible its remarkable potentialities by use of some exceptional design features.

It is exceptionally clean aerodynamically, employing the recently developed NACA low-drag (Laminar Flow) airfoil wing section. It is equipped with twin 2000 horsepower R-2800 series engines. It has a new double slotted flap which reduces landing speed and assists takeoff. And the entire airplane has features of maintenance simplification stressing accessibility to all parts.

MRS. LAMB RETURNS

Mrs. A. A. Lamb returned Sunday from a month's visit at Weatherford, Tex., where she was called by the critical illness of her mother, Mrs. A. J. Williams.

Army Hospital Anniversary November 15

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and accomplishments at Torrance.

The contest, which was held in connection with the hospital's first anniversary, to be celebrated on Nov. 15, was open to all female civilian employes. Eligible to cast votes for their popular choice were all the soldier patients and all the hospital's civilian employes, and the voting that followed was spirited and close. Interestingly enough, the two runners-up to the queen are redheads, but the winner is a beautiful blonde, who though born in Texas, has now adopted sunny California as her home state.

"Miss Popularity" and her attendants will preside at the hospital's anniversary day festivities.

There will be a large all-star, outdoor show for the afternoon proceedings, and later in the evening an entirely new cast of topflight entertainers will perform in the hospital's recreation hall. Finally, the day's festivities will end with a pair of dances, one in the Officers' Club and the other in the Enlisted Men's Club. Thus, with music and dancing, the lusty infant of one year will embark upon another year of service for the military of the Army of the United States.

Servicemen's stationery? Call Torrance 444 or 443.