

THE GRUMMAN CATS



WILDCAT



HELLCAT



BEARCAT

F4F WILDCAT

Also called Martlett by RAF

1st Flight: Sept. 2, 1937

Manufactured: 7,885

Cost: \$30,000 (1940)

Years Active: 1940-1945

Flying Survivors: 17

F6F HELLCAT

1st Flight: June 26, 1942

Manufactured: 12,275

Cost: \$35,000 (1945)

Years Active: 1943 -1960

Flying Survivors: 7

F8F BEARCAT

1st Flight: Aug. 21, 1944

Manufactured: 1,265

Cost: \$3,000,000 (2015)

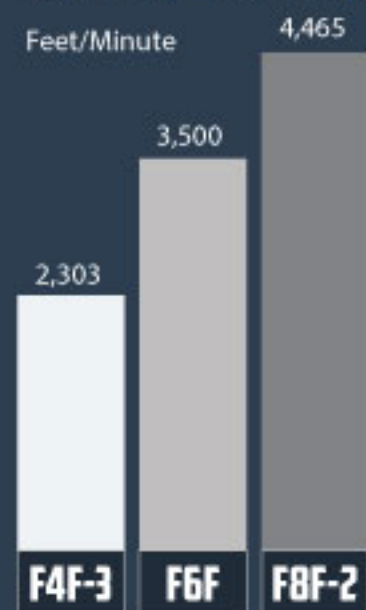
Years Active: 1945-1963

Flying Survivors: 15

MAX SPEED:



RATE OF CLIMB:



OPERATORS:

F4F WILDCAT



F6F HELLCAT



F4F WILDCAT



PILOT'S NOTES



THE WILDCAT

The F4F has a slower landing speed and smaller body. Because of its heavily armored frame, the Wildcat was able to survive much more damage than its rival, the Japanese A6M Zero.

THE HELLCAT

The F6F was nicknamed the "ace maker" for effectively countering the Japanese A6M Zero. It was the night fighter of choice because it was easier to land.

THE BEARCAT

The F8F was much lighter than the others. It was also designed to take up less space on aircraft carriers. It was the first U.S. Navy Fighter to be fitted with a bubble canopy providing a better field of vision for the pilot.

ACHIEVEMENTS

F4F WILDCAT

The Wildcat was the primary U.S. Navy and Marine Corps carrier-based fighter during the early years of WWII in the Pacific Theater. The Wildcat's rugged construction, superior firepower, and defensive tactics helped American pilots hold the line until more advanced aircraft like the F6F Hellcat arrived.

F6F HELLCAT

During its service with the U.S. Navy, the Hellcat was responsible for over 75 percent of air-to-air victories. Over 305 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots became aces (five or more kills) flying the Hellcat, more than any other American aircraft in history. In just two years, the Hellcat destroyed 5,156 enemy aircraft, achieving an impressive 19:1 kill ratio.

F8F BEARCAT

The Bearcat was one of the fastest piston-engine fighters ever built and represented the pinnacle of propeller-driven aircraft design from the WWII era. It arrived too late to see combat during World War II, the Bearcat became a vital part of military aviation and was widely utilized by other countries.