

CONFIDENTIAL

33. (C) Ltr. 8 Dec. 1942

Fr: Brig. Gen. F.O. Carroll

Chief, Eng. Div., WF

To: Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc.

El Segundo, Cal.

(File: Contract Files)

Douglas was informed that, except for the 75 mm. cannon installation for the production A-26B airplane, studies of armament arrangements should be curtailed until the airplane had reached a more advanced stage of production. When this stage was reached, the studies were to proceed in the following order of priority: normal bombardier nose, twin .50 cal. machine guns installed in external wing racks, a package installation of two 37 mm. cannon in a removable unit under the bomb bay, six .50 cal. machine gun nose, and four 37 mm. cannon nose.

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Address Reply to:
Chief, Engineering Division
Material Center
Reference: VEH:dc:50

Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio
December 5, 1942

Contracts AC-17946 and AC-21393
IA-26 and A-26 Series Airplanes
Various Proposed Armament Arrangements

Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc.
El Segundo Plant
El Segundo, California

Reference: Material Center letter SHB:maw:70-1 dated December 4, 1942.

1. In view of the decision transmitted in the reference letter to expedite and expand the production of these airplanes, the contractor is advised that studies of all variations of armament arrangements, other than that of the production A-26B airplane mounting the 75 mm. cannon, must be curtailed until that airplane has reached a more advanced stage of production. When that stage has been reached it is requested that the contractor proceed with studies for the production of variations of fixed gun armament in the following order of priority:

a. Normal bombardier nose, similar to that of the present IA-26 airplane. At least two additional .50 caliber machine guns should be provided. These, however, may be provided as in b below.

b. Twin .50 caliber machine guns installed in removable racks mounted under the wing bomb racks. This study should extend to mounting one such unit under each of the four wing bomb stations such that a total of as many as eight wing guns can be carried.

c. A package installation of two 37 mm., T-20 cannons in a removable unit to mount under the bomb bay. This unit should be easily attachable to suitable points on the bomb rack supports.

d. An installation of six .50 caliber machine guns in a removable nose structure.

e. An installation of four 37 mm. M-4 aircraft cannon in a removable nose structure.

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Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc.
Various Proposed Armament Arrangements
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2. In order to supply auxiliary forward machine gun fire with the present 75 mm. production version, suitable provisions in the wings of the A-26B airplanes for the attachment of the wing rack mounted .50 caliber guns should be made. If this is not possible within the time available, two .50 caliber machine guns must be mounted on the left side of the cannon in the nose to provide the required covering fire.

3. It is thought possible to substitute the wing mounted .50 caliber guns for the six gun .50 caliber nose installation. However, confirmation of this point will be postponed for future correspondence.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces Materiel Center:

R. D. CARROLL,
Brig. General, U.S.A.,
Chief, Engineering Division

CC:
Ass't. AAF Res. Repr.
West. Dist. Super.
Prod. Engr. Sect.
Cont. Sect.
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