

42. (C) IOM 22 Jan. 1943
Fr: Brig. Gen. F.O. Carroll
Chief, Eng. Div., WF
To: C.G., Mat. Com.
Hdq. AAF, Wash.
Attn: AC/S (E)
(File: Central Files)

Eng. Div., (WF) stated that Douglas was proceeding with the development of various armament arrangements of the A-26 airplane as directed in CTI-043, Addendum 1, dated 30 Dec. 1942. The all-purpose gun nose included provisions for each of the following arrangements: (1) six .50 cal. guns, (2) four .50 cal. guns and one 37 mm. T-20 cannon, (3) two 37 mm. T-20 cannon, or (4) two .50 cal. guns and one 75 mm. cannon. Any of these arrangements could be made in the field by installing the guns on brackets contained in the nose.

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January 22, 1943

Commanding General, Materiel Command
Headquarters, Army Air Forces
Washington, D. C.
Attn: Assistant Chief of Staff (E)

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A-26B Airplanes - Various Development Noses

1. Reference is made to OTI-943, Addendum 1, dated December 30, 1942 which defines the development program for the armament arrangements of production A-26 series airplanes. The contractor is proceeding with work on this directive according to the following schedule:

a. The 75 mm nose for the first 500 A-26B airplanes. This version has no .50 caliber supporting guns contained within the nose.

b. Dual .50 caliber machine guns mounted in removable streamlined housings under the wing bomb racks. This will supply the desired supporting fire for both the 75 mm nose and the bombardier nose version. Provisions will be made in all production airplanes for these guns, although the actual mounts may not be available for the first few airplanes.

c. The bombardier's nose is almost completely designed. It can be finished whenever necessary to provide it on production airplanes.

d. The six .50 caliber guns are provided in an all-purpose nose which includes provisions for each of the following arrangements:

- (1) Six .50 caliber guns
- (2) Four .50 caliber guns and one 37 mm T-20 cannon
- (3) Two 37 mm T-20 cannon
- (4) Two .50 caliber guns and one 75 mm cannon

Any of these arrangements may be selected in the field merely by installing the desired guns on brackets which are contained in this nose. The weight penalty incident to this feature is very small in comparison to the desirable flexibility gained. Provisions for mounting this nose

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A-26B - Various Development Noses
January 22, 1943

will be made on all production airplanes. The actual articles, however, may not be available for the first few airplanes.

e. Fragmentation racks will be provided for in all airplanes. These racks will carry parachute fragmentation bombs.

f. Work on the four-gun 37 mm nose has been postponed until the above program is in a more advanced stage of development.

2. By following the above program, it will be possible to mount either the bombardier-observer nose or the all-purpose nose on any airplane, either in the factory or in a field depot. All of the desired armament arrangements are thereby secured with only two noses, which arrangement promotes production and increases flexibility. Any version may be supported by the additional .50 caliber guns mounted under the wings.

cc - Production Dir

F. O. Carroll
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Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Chief, Engineering Division.

V. R. HADSEN,
Lt. Colonel, A. G.
Project Officer.

CHESTER D. SEFTENBERG

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Asst. Technical Executive

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