

44. (C) Ltr. 22 Feb. 1943
Fr: Col. H.Z. Bogert
Chief, Tech. Staff.
Eng. Div., WF
To: Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc.
El Segundo, Cal.
(File: Contract Files)

Eng. Div. (WF) informed Douglas that no further study was to be made of the installation of the 37 mm. high velocity cannon under the bomb bay of the A-26. Firing tests of the installation of a 37 mm. cannon beneath the bomb bay of a B-25 airplane had produced serious damage to the nose wheel doors and skin structure.

CONFIDENTIAL

Address reply to
Chief, Engineering Division
AAF Materiel Center
Att: Technical Staff
Reference VRH:do:50

Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio
February 22, 1943

Contract AC-17916, A-26 Airplane
Contract AC-21393, A-26 Airplane
Armament Arrangements

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

EX-523

Reference Douglas letter F250-1212 dated January 30, 1943

1. The contractor's understanding of existing instructions as discussed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the reference letter is confirmed. It is understood that, while the actual installation of multiple gun noses and wing guns cannot be made for the first of the production airplanes, provisions such that these units can be installed on all airplanes, when available, will be made. In view of the recently demonstrated effectiveness of the parachute fragmentation bomb, every effort should be made to equip early A-26 airplanes with fragmentation racks. Information has been repeatedly received from the field forces that the desired number of these bombs is 150 to 180.

2. The subject of the required quantity of the bombardier noses on subsequent production airplanes will be covered in separate correspondence.

3. No further effort need be expended on the installation of the 37 mm. high velocity cannons under the bomb bay. A recent test with one of these guns suspended below a B-25 airplane produced serious damage to the nose wheel doors and skin structure when the gun was fired. This confirms the similar observations made on an A-20 airplane.

4. Inasmuch as the construction of the four-gun 37 mm. nose is for purely experimental reasons and is in no way connected with any production quantity now contemplated, cancellation of the original contract change order in order to re-issue it on the production contract does not seem justified.

For the Chief of Engineering Division:

MX-73
MX-73A

V. R. HAUGEN
H. L. BOBERT,
Colonel, Air Corps, Project Officer
Chief, Technical Staff,
Engineering Division.

CC:

Ass't AAF Res. Repr.
AAF West. Dist. Supvr.
Procurement Div.
Production Sect.
PROD. ENGR. SECT.

CENTRAL FILES

COM. GEN.

TECH. EXC.

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CONTRACT

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TECH. DATA

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