

47. (S) Ltr. 15 March 1943
Fr: Col. M.E. Gross
Acting Dir. Mil. Req.
NAS, Wash.
To: CG, Mat. Com., WF
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In order to provide for the most expeditious engineering and accelerated production, Acting Dir. Mil. Req. (Wash.) established requirements for the A-26 airplane. The airplane was to be engineered so that certain listed variations of the basic type would be possible. The variations were to be accomplished by means of interchangeable gun combinations so that not more than two different types of noses would be required. The basic airplane was to include complete provisions for bomb and torpedo release by the pilot, provisions for four wing gun packages, each containing two .50 cal. machine guns, and provisions for carrying a minimum of eighty 23 lb. parachute fragmentation bombs. The bombardier-observer nose was to be required for 33 1/3 per cent of all airplanes, and the wing gun package installation was to be procured for all airplanes.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1943

SUBJECT: A-26 Type Airplane

TO: Commanding General, Materiel Command

1. In confirmation of the actions taken by the Materiel Command and indicated in its letter of December 28, 1942, subject: "A-26B Airplanes--Development of Alternate Armament Configurations" and in order to provide for most expeditious engineering and accelerated production the following requirements are confirmed and established for the A-26 airplane. These instructions supersede those contained in letter December 16, 1942, above subject, and any other instructions in conflict herewith.

2. It is desired that the A-26 airplane be so engineered that variations of the basic type will be possible. These variations are:

a. A minimum of six (6) .50 cal. machine guns mounted in the nose.

b. A minimum of two (2) .37 mm high velocity cannon and the maximum practicable number of .50 cal. machine guns mounted in the nose.

c. One (1) .75 mm cannon and a minimum of two (2) .50 cal. machine guns mounted in the nose.

d. Bombardier-observer nose to include:

- (1) Minimum of two (2) .50 cal. machine guns.
- (2) Minimum provisions for bombsighting, release and for D. R. navigation.
- (3) Adequate passive defense against ground fire for the bombardier-observer.

It is desired that the above variations be accomplished by means of interchangeable gun combinations so that not more than two (2) different types of noses are required.



3. The basic type airplane will include the following:
 - a. Complete provisions for bomb and torpedo release by the pilot to include a torpedo sight, modified gunsight for minimum altitude bombing and an auxiliary ring and bead sight.
 - b. Provisions for mounting one package containing two (2) .50 cal. machine guns on each of the four wing racks.
 - c. Provisions for carrying a minimum of eighty (80) 23 lb. parachute fragmentation bombs.
4. For the purposes of production planning the following ratios and numbers are established.
 - a. It is contemplated that the bombardier-observer nose will be required for 33 1/3 per cent of all airplanes produced.
 - b. The two .50 cal. package installation for wing racks should be procured for all airplanes.
5. The A-26 type airplane with the above provisions will satisfy the requirements established by the "Military Characteristics" of the light bombardment airplane submitted November 22, 1942.

By command of Lieutenant General ARNOLD:

Mervin E. Gross
MERVIN E. GROSS
Colonel, Air Corps
Acting Director of Military Requirements