

Appendix 1. Aircraft

Aichi D3A1 “Val”

Navy Type 99 carrier bomber (divebomber)

1 x 1,070hp engine

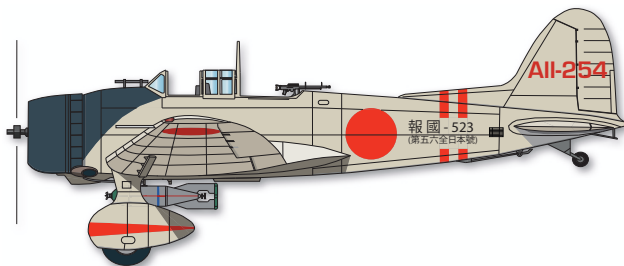
Speed: 242mph max; 184mph cruise

Range: 915 miles

Weight: 8,047lb max

Crew: 2 (pilot, rear gunner)

Armament: 2 x 7.7mm fixed forward firing Type 97 MGs; 1 x 7.7mm Type 92 MG in rear cockpit; 1 x 250 kg (550 lb) bomb under the fuselage; optional 2 x 60 kg bombs under each wing.



Aichi D3A1 of the Kaga Air Group, serial number “AII-254”, which was shot down with the loss of both crew. The Japanese characters on the fuselage indicate that this was a Houkoku aircraft, paid for with public donations. (Ed De Kiep via Bob Alford)

The Aichi D3A1 Val was the primary divebomber of the Imperial Japanese Navy at the start of WWII. Its fixed landing gear gave the Val a slightly dated appearance, but this was a calculated design choice which avoided the weight and complexity of a retractable undercarriage.

Aichi E13A1 “Jake”

Navy Type 0 reconnaissance floatplane

1 x 1,080hp engine

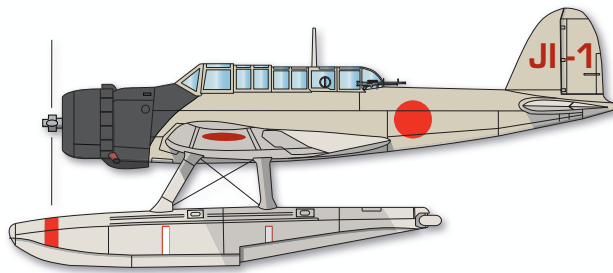
Speed: 234mph max; 138mph cruise

Range: 1,300 miles

Weight: 8,025lb max loaded

Crew: 3

Armament: 1 x 7.7mm Type 92 MG in rear cockpit; up to 250kg (551lb) of bombs or depth charges.



Aichi E13A1 floatplane from the cruiser Tone.

Accompanying the carrier force to Darwin were the modern heavy cruisers Tone and Chikuma. Five floatplanes were carried by each of these ships: two smaller, short-ranged biplane types and three Aichi E13 Jakes which were used for long-range searches. In this way the cruiser-based floatplanes became an integral part of Japanese carrier operations.