

The Comets' Tale

*The Official
Newsletter of the*



January 2009

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The Comets' Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura County Comets, AMA Chartered Club #173 and is published monthly at the Comets' Tale Plaza, somewhere in Ventura.

Editorial contributions are welcome.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 15 January, 2009,
7:30 PM at the Oak View Community Center**

Root's Rambling

It's a new year so what will you be building, assembling, buying, or I hope not stealing for the new year? May all of you have a great 2009 with a lot of enjoyable model flying. Because my readers seem to like airplane pictures and because more pictures means less writing I thought I would include pictures and a discussion of twin engine airplanes which might make great scale models. Actually, with the technology available these days, any full size airplane can probably be scaled to a decent flying model. Therefore, as usual with my rambling I'll discuss my opinions and views.

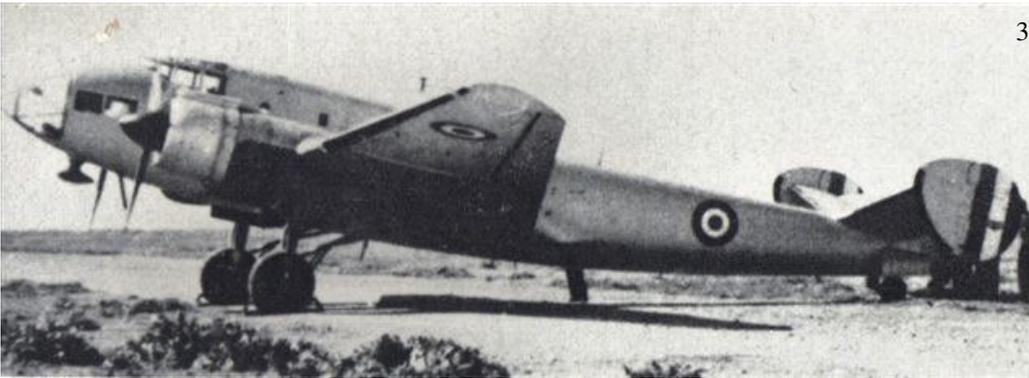
I have mentioned in the past that I am a slow builder. One of the probable reasons is I spend a lot of time investigating potential new next models before I have completed whatever I'm working on at the moment. One of the projects I have been contemplating for a long time is some sort of twin engine model. For me that means a scale twin. So let's talk about potential future twin engine scale models. The logical first twin model should be electric powered. This minimizes the chance of a single engine failure. However, I still enjoy the smell and noise of our glow powered models. Electric is too *clean*. I have several models powered by the OS 46ax engines. I won the first one at a club raffle and have been an advocate since. This is the most reliable engine I have ever operated. For this reason I would love to build a twin powered by two of them. The following is a discussion of my thinking along these lines.

I have picked the obscure Fokker T.V bomber shown in pictures 1 and 2 for my electric powered twin scale project. I found the 3-views in the great Paul Matt





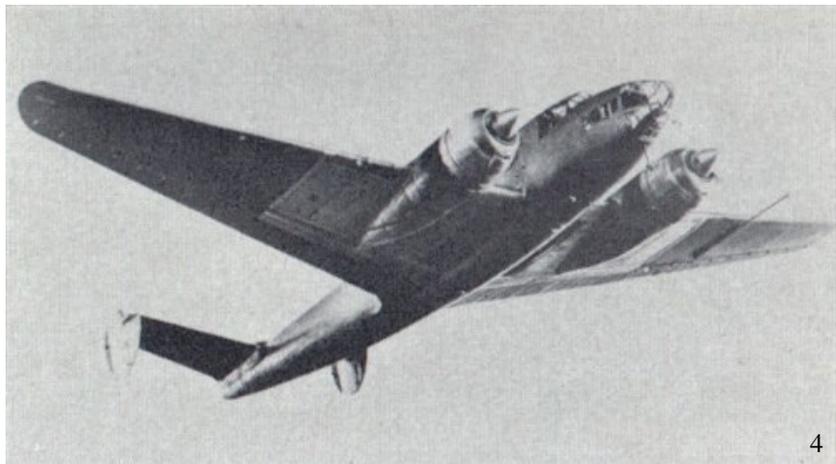
Scale Airplane drawings book. I have acquired motors and electronic speed controls for a 1/12 scale model of 69 inch span. The model drawings are pretty much completed. This Dutch airplane design was started in 1936. The prototype flew in late 1937. There were various engine, hydraulic, and bomb rack problems which were not completely solved until 1940. The T.V was a capable medium bomber with performance similar to the British Blenheim and Wellington, German Dornier Do-17 and Heinkel-111, or the French Potez 630.



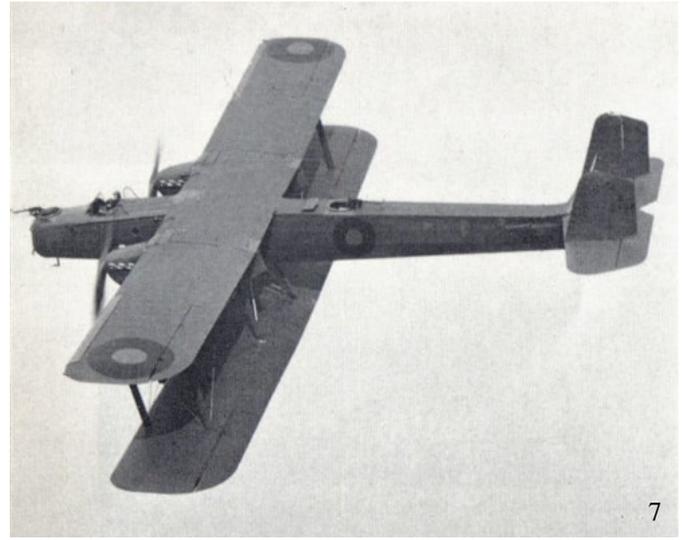
However, its armament was better than these competitors. The T.V was used by the Dutch against the Germans in the May War but was available in too little number to make any difference.

I went thru my set of Aircraft Profiles (numbers 1-192) and picked out over 30 twin engine airplanes which I thought would make interesting scale models. I can't show that many pictures in this article so I have narrowed it down to those shown.

But first, my current pick for an OS 46ax powered twin is shown in pictures 3, 4 and 5. This is the French Liore et Olivier LeO 451. My current thinking is a 1/11 scale model (80.5 in. span) would be about the right size. This obscure bomber familiarly called the "LeO 45" was the only French aircraft that, having taken part in the 1939-40 campaign, remained in active service twelve years after the end of World War Two. At the outbreak of the war it was as fast as any French fighter and very close to the enemy fighters. I included the side profile shown in picture 5 to show the large cannon not masked by the tail which was used very effectively against enemy fighters trying to close on the bomber.

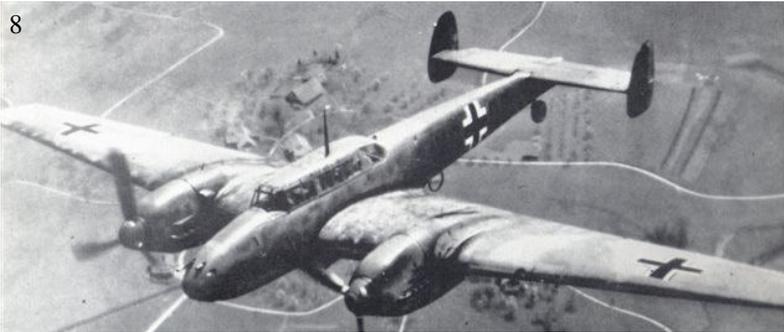


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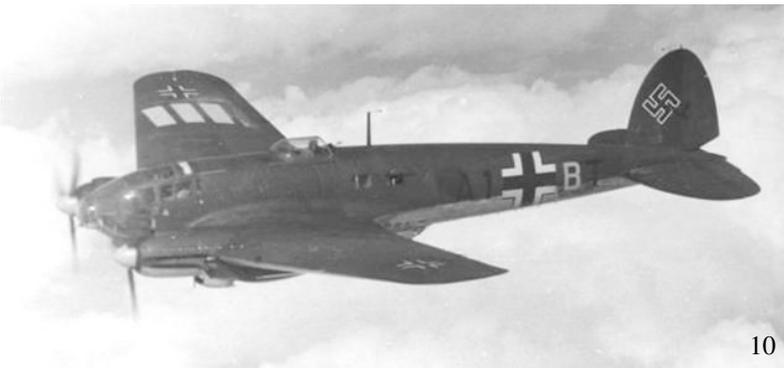


Additional subjects of interest are shown in the remaining pictures. The Handley Page Heyford is shown in pictures 6 and 7. This was the last biplane bomber used by the British. It first flew in 1930. It was completely obsolete by 1937 but was used as a bombing and gunnery trainer until 1940. It would make a neat model if it was small. It would be hard to assemble at the field!

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German bombers are included in pictures 8, 9 and 10. The Messerschmitt Bf 110 in picture 8 and the Junkers Ju 88 in 9 are fairly common subjects for models. The Heinkel He 111 in picture 10 is a beautiful airplane which I haven't seen modeled.



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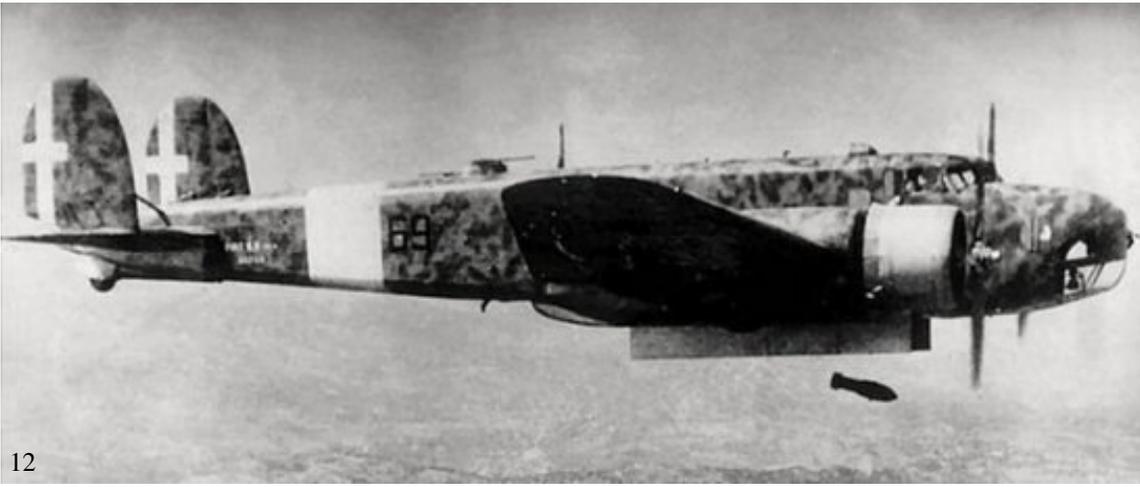
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Picture 11 shows the Handley Page Hampden whose unusual shape would make a neat model. The Italian Fiat Br20 shown in picture 12 is another rare bomber. The Douglas A-20 Havoc, Martin B-26 Marauder, and the Douglas A-26 (B-26) Intruder shown in pictures 13, 14, and 15 are all popular airplanes which I have seen modeled. The Mitsubishi Ki-46 shown in picture 16 was a high altitude fast long range Japanese reconnaissance aircraft. Late in the war the Ki-46 was modified into a fighter by replacing the cameras with two 37 mm cannon, one mounted in the fuselage firing forward and upward. Although designed to intercept B-29's it was not



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very successful because of poor climb performance and the effectiveness of concentrated B-29 fire. Picture 17 shows the Fokker G-1 fighter which first flew in 1937. Because of the war only 62 were built, but the Dutch used them very ef-



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The Mitsubishi Ki-46

fectively against the Germans during their short May war. Although not originally a warplane the de Havilland Dragon Rapide shown in picture 18 was utilized by the British military throughout the war. I feel it is one of the most elegant designs from this period. I also have several pictures of this design on floats after the war. Anyone interested in a most unusual float plane for our float fly?



The Fokker G-1



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Bob Root

For Sale!

OS FS1.20S Surpass with pump

In original box. Has only about 15 flights in a quarter scale model.

Runs great! List Price \$420, will sell for \$285

Call Bing Fabian at (805) 687-1041

The December 2008 Meeting was the annual Christmas Party Potluck. There was a minimal business meeting and then there was lots of great food. Here's a photo of the party.



At left is another Whatzit plane contributed by Cap'n Leo Jaskoski of Avondale AZ. He photographed this airplane at the Udvar-Hazy Center at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. Any ideas? I sure don't know. The engine appears to be a two row, 10 cylinder radial and it appears seeing forward was not a priority on this airplane... check out the windows.