

GRUMMAN TBF / TBM AVENGER

AVENGER SERVICE

Manufacturers: The Grumman Aircraft Engr. Corp., Bethpage, Long Is.,
New York, USA
General Motors Corp., Eastern Aircraft Division, Trenton,
New Jersey, USA

Models: G-40, G-56

Designations: TBF; TBM

Names: Avenger (US Navy & RN); Tarpon (RN)

First official flight: XTBF-1 07/08/1941

Factory production period: 1941 – 1945

Primary service period: 1942 – 1945

Last official flight: TBM-3S2 / W2 06/1954

AVENGER VARIANTS

Grumman

1941	Model G-40	XTBF-1	2	
1942	Model G-40	TBF-1	1526	
1943	Model G-40	TBF-1C	765	Total: 2293

General Motors

1942	Model G-40	TBM-1	550	
1943	Model G-40	TBM-1C	2336	
1944	Model G-40	TBM-3	4657	
1945	Model G-40	XTBM-4	3	Total: 7546
				<u>Total: 9839</u>

AVENGER PRODUCTION

Grumman

XTBF-1

*Prototype single-engined, torpedo-bomber, rear dorsal turret.
produced 1941*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
BuNo. 2539, 2540 644, 645

2 Total: 0002

TBF-1

*As second XTBF-1 with dorsal fin,
single cowling gun.*

produced 1941 – 1943

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 00373 / 00658	-	
BuNo. 01731 / 01770	2765 / 2804	
BuNo. 05877 / 06491	3925 / 4539	
BuNo. 23857 / 24086	4540 / 4769	
BuNo. 24087 / 24241	4970 / 5124	
BuNo. 47438 / 47637	4770 / 4969	1526

Total: 1526

TBF-1C

*As TBF-1, 2 wing guns, cowling
gun deleted.*

produced 1943

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 24242 / 24520	5125 / 5403	
BuNo. 47638 / 48123	5404 / 5889	765

Total: 0765

48 to RNZAF as NZ2501 / NZ2548.

TBF-3 – Planned production model, cancelled.

General Motors

TBM-1

General Motors version of TBF-1.

produced 1942 – 1943

General Motors Trenton, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 24521 / 25070	-	550
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Total: 0550

TBM-1C

General Motors version of TBF-1C.

produced 1943 – 1944

General Motors Trenton, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 16792 / 17091	-	
BuNo. 25071 / 25720	-	
BuNo. 34102 / 34105	-	
BuNo. 45445 / 46444	-	
BuNo. 73117 / 73498	-	2336

Total: 2336

TBM-3

*As TBM-1C, double cooling intakes,
engine upgrade, minor changes.*

produced 1944 – 1945

General Motors Trenton, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 22857 / 23656	1 / 800	
BuNo. 53050 / 53949	3112 / 4011	
BuNo. 68062 / 69538	801 / 2277	
BuNo. 85459 / 86292	2278 / 3111	4011

Total: 4011

145 additional airframes cancelled.

TBM-3E

As TBM-3, stronger airframe, search radar, ventral gun deleted.

BuNo. 91107 / 91752 4012 / 4657

646 **Total: 4657**

254 additional airframes cancelled.

XTBM-4

Prototypes based on TBM-3E, strengthened wings.

produced 1945

General Motors Trenton, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 97673 / 97675 -

3 **Total: 0003**

TBM-4 – 4126 ordered but cancelled after VJ Day.

Total: 9839

AVENGER CONVERSIONS

WW2

US Navy

TBF-1D	1+	TBF-1, wing mounted ASD radar for ASW duties.
TBF-1E	1+	TBF-1, special radar and avionics.
TBF-1J	1+	TBF-1, factory conversions for Arctic operations.
TBF-1L	1+	TBF-1, fitted with retractable searchlight in bomb bay.
TBF-1P	1+	TBF-1, photo reconnaissance aircraft with multiple cameras.
TBF-1CD	1+	TBF-1C, same as TBF-1D.
TBF-1CP	1+	TBF-1C, same as TBF-1P.
XTBF-2	1	TBF-1(00393), 1942, prototype with engine upgrade.
XTBF-3	2	1 TBF-1(24141) / 1 TBF-1C(24341), 1943, prototypes with engine upgrades.
TBM-1D / -1E / -1J / -1L / -1P		
	1+	TBM-1, equivalent to TBF-1 conversions.
TBM-1CP	1+	TBM-1C, equivalent to TBM-1P.
XTBM-2	1	TBM-1(24580), 1942, prototype with engine upgrade.
XTBM-3	4	TBM-1C(25175, 25521, 25700, 45645), 1943, prototypes with engine upgrades.
TBM-3D / -3J / -3L / -3P		
	1+	TBM-3, equivalent to TBF-1 conversions.
TBM-3H	1+	TBM-3, 1944, conversions with surface-search radar.
XTBM-3W	1	TBM-3, 1944, prototype AEW aircraft.
XTBM-5	2	TBM-3E, 1945, light-weight conversions.
Model G-56	1	TBF-1(01746), 1942, prototype with Martin 2-gun turret, engine upgrade cancelled.

British Royal Navy

*Original name was **Tarpon**, changed to **Avenger** in 1944.*

Tarpon TR.Mk. I 402 TBF-1, 1942-1946, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: FN750 / FN949, JT773, JZ100 / JZ300.
US designation TBF-1B.

Avenger TR.Mk. II 334 TBM-1/-1C, 1944-1946, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: JZ301 / JZ634.

Avenger TB.Mk. III 222 TBM-3, 1944-1946, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: JZ635 / JZ746, KE430 / KE539.

Avenger Mk. IV 70 TBM-3S, cancelled deliveries.

Post WW2

US Navy

Some conversions from WW2 carried into post WW2 service.

TBM-3E2	1+	TBM-3E, upgrade with extra avionics.
TBM-3M	1+	TBM-3, various missile launching conversions.
(TBM-3M2)	1+	TBM-3M, upgrades with extra equipment.
TBM-3N	1+	TBM-3, 1945, special night-attack missions, no rear turret.
TBM-3Q	1+	TBM-3, 1945, re-builds for ECM and EW research.
TBM-3R	1+	TBM-3/-3E, 1950, cargo On-Board-Delivery conversions, no rear turret.
TBM-3S	1+	TBM-3/-3E, major re-builds as ASW strike aircraft, no rear turret. 98 of the 125 in service (1950-1960) with the RCN designated as Avenger AS.Mk. 3 and AS.Mk. 3M.
(TBM-3S2)	1+	TBM-3S, avionics upgrades.
TBM-3U	1+	TBM-3, utility and target towing conversions.
TBM-3W	1+	TBM-3, 1945-1950, major re-builds as ASW / AEW radar aircraft, belly radome.
(TBM-3W2)	1+	TBM-3W, 1950-1954, avionics upgrades.

British Royal Navy

Avenger AS.Mk. 4 100 TBM-3S, 1953-1962, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: XB296 / XB332, XB355 / XB404, XB437 / XB449.
Conversions: AS.Mk. 5, ECM.Mk. 6.

FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *Exported post WW2 to Navies in Brazil, Canada, France, Japan, The Netherlands and Uruguay.*
- *Many sold on the civil market as water bombers, sprayers, transports etc.*