

BOEING B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

B-17 SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Boeing Aircraft Co., Seattle, Washington, USA
Model: Boeing Model 299
Designations: B-17; B-38, B-40, BQ-7, C-108, CQ-4, F-9, PB
Name: Flying Fortress

First official flight: Model 299 28/07/1935
Factory production period: 1934 – 1945
Primary service period: 1936 – 1945
Last official flight: QB-17L 06/1960

B-17 VARIANTS

1935	Model 299	Prototype (XB-17)	1	
1936	Model 299B	Y1B-17 (YB-17, B-17)	13	
1938	Model 299F	Y1B-17A (B-17A)	1	Total: 00015
1939	Model 299M	B-17B	39	
1940	Model 299H	B-17C	38	
1941	Model 299H	B-17D	42	Total: 00119
1941	Model 299O	B-17E	512	
1942	Model 299P	B-17F	3405	
1943	Model 299P	B-17G	8680	Total: 12597
				<u>Total: 12731</u>

B-17 VARIANTS – TYPE COMPARISON

<u>USAAF</u>		<u>US Navy</u>		<u>British RAF</u>	
Model 299	1	-		-	
Y1B-17	13	-		-	
Y1B-17A	1	-		-	

B-17B	39	-		-	
B-17C	18	-		Fortress Mk. I	20
B-17D	42	-		-	

B-17E	467	-		Fortress Mk. IIA	45
B-17F	3384	PB-1	1	Fortress Mk. II	20
B-17G	8520	PB-1W	31	Fortress Mk. III	98
		PB-1G	17	-	
B-17G(late)		-		Fortress Mk. IIIA	14
Total: 12485		Total: 49		Total: 197	

B-17 PRODUCTION

Model 299 (XB-17)

*Prototype heavy bomber, 4 engines, bubble turrets,
ADF antenna, unofficial designation was **XB-17**.*

produced 1934 – 1935

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

X-13372 (*civil reg.*) 1963 1 **Total: 00001**

Y1B-17 (YB-17, B-17)

As Model 299, engine upgrade.

*Redesignated **B-17** after service tests.*

produced 1936 – 1937

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

36-149 / 36-161 1973 / 1985 13 **Total: 00013**

Y1B-17A (B-17A)

As Y1B-17, engine upgrade, superchargers.

*Redesignated **B-17A** after supercharger tests.*

produced 1938

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

37-369 1987 1 **Total: 00001**

B-17B

As Y1B-17A, redesigned nose, enlarged flaps, rudder.

produced 1939 – 1940

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

38-211 / 38-223 2004 / 2016

38-258 / 38-270 2017 / 2029

38-583, 38-584 2030, 2031

38-610 2032

39-001 / 39-010 2033 / 2042 39 **Total: 00039**

1 (39-011), *additional airframe cancelled.*

B-17C

As B-17B, bathtub ventral gun, revised turrets, armour.

produced 1940

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

40-2042 / 40-2079 2043 / 2080 38 **Total: 00038**

B-17D

As B-17C, revised systems, armour, cowl flaps.

produced 1940 – 1941

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

40-3059 / 40-3100 2087 / 2128 42 **Total: 00042**

B-17E

*As B-17D, redesigned nose, cockpit, tail, new gun turrets
(top, bottom, rear), minor changes.*

produced 1941 – 1942

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

41-2393 / 41-2669 2204 / 2480

41-9011 / 41-9245 2483 / 2717 512 **Total: 00512**

B-17F

*As B-17E, frameless glass nose, engine upgrade,
many block no. changes, Lockheed built were Vega Model 17.
produced 1942 – 1943*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

41-24340 / 41-24639	3025 / 3324	
42-5050 / 42-5484	3589 / 4023	
42-29467 / 42-31031	4581 / 6145	2300

Douglas Long Beach, California (DL)

42-2964 / 42-3482	7900 / 8418	
42-3483 / 42-3562	8419 / 8498	

- 80 redesignated as B-17G-DL in service.

42-37714, 42-37715	8500, 8501	
42-37717 / 42-37720	8503 / 8506	605

Lockheed-Vega, Burbank, California (VE)

42-5705 / 42-6204	17-6001 / 6500	500	Total: 03405
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B-17G

*As B-17F, chin turret, many block no. changes.
Lockheed built were Vega Model 17.
produced 1943 – 1945*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

42-31032 / 42-32116	6146 / 7230	
42-97058 / 42-97407	7531 / 7880	
42-102379 / 42-102978	7881 / 8480	
43-37509 / 43-39508	8487 / 10486	4035

Douglas Long Beach, California (DL)

42-3563, 42-37716	8499, 8502	
42-37721 / 42-38213	8507 / 8999	
42-106984 / 42-107233	21899 / 22148	
44-6001 / 44-7000	22224 / 23223	
44-83236 / 44-83885	31877 / 32526	2395

600 additional airframes cancelled.

Lockheed-Vega, Burbank, California (VE)

42-39758 / 42-40057	17-6501 / 6800		
42-97436 / 42-98035	17-6801 / 7400		
44-8001 / 44-9000	17-7401 / 8400		
44-85492 / 44-85841	17-8401 / 8750	2250	Total: 08680

100 additional airframes cancelled.

Total: 12731

B-17 CONVERSIONS

WW2

USAAF

RB-17B	1+	B-17B, 1942, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
RB-17C	1+	B-17C, 1942, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
RB-17D	1+	B-17D, 1942, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.

B-17H	12	B-17G, 1945, air-sea rescue aircraft with droppable lifeboat. Nicknamed: <i>Dumbo</i> .
(SB-17G)	12	1948-1956, redesignation of B-17H.
TB-17H	5	B-17G, 1945, crew trainer for B-17H.
XB-38	1	B-17E(Vega Model 117), 1943, engine upgrade.
TB-40	4	B-17F, 1943, crew trainer for YB-40.
XB-40	1	B-17F(Vega Model 217), 1942, armed escort with additional machine guns.
YB-40	20	B-17F(Vega Model V139-3), 1943, armed escort with upgraded armament.
BQ-7	25+	B-17E/F, 1944, conversions as flying unmanned bombs.
XC-108	1	B-17E, 1943, VIP aircraft for General MacArthur, named " <i>Bataan</i> ".
YC-108	1	B-17F, 1943, staff executive transport.
XC-108A	1	B-17E, 1944, cargo conversion with side cargo door, unarmed.
XC-108B	1	B-17F, 1943, tanker conversion, armament deleted.
CQ-4	1+	B-17G, 1944, drone director aircraft for the BQ-7.
F-9	16	B-17F, 1942, reconn. Aircraft with cameras in bomb bay.
F-9A	25	B-17F, 1942, camera aircraft with alternative cameras.
(F-9B)	1+	1943, modified F-9A.
(FB-17F)	1+	1945, redesignation of F-9 / F-9A.
(RB-17F)	1+	1948, redesignation of FB-17F.
F-9C	10+	B-17G, 1944, conversion with camera installations.
(FB-17G)	1+	1945, redesignation of F-9C.
(RB-17G)	1+	1948, redesignation of FB-17G.

British RAF

(Model 299U) Fortress Mk. I

	20	B-17C, 1941-1946, aircraft serving with the RAF. Assigned RAF s/n: AN518 / AN537.
Fortress Mk. II	20	B-17F, 1942-1946, aircraft serving with the RAF. Assigned RAF s/n: FA684, FA695 / FA713. <i>Conversions: B.Mk. II, GR.Mk. II.</i>
Fortress Mk. IIA	45	B-17E, 1942-1946, aircraft serving with the RAF. Assigned RAF s/n: FK184 / FK213, FL449 / FL460, FL462 / FL464. <i>Conversions: B.Mk. IIA, GR.Mk. IIA.</i>
Fortress Mk. III	98	B-17G, 1944-1946, aircraft serving with the RAF. Assigned RAF s/n: HB761 / HB820, KH998, KH999, KJ100 / KJ127, KL830 / KL837. <i>Conversions: B.Mk. III, GR.Mk. III.</i> 3 to RCAF as 9205 / 9207. 13 back to USAAF.
Fortress Mk. IIIA	14	B-17G, 1944-1946, late models with RAF. Assigned RAF s/n: SR376 / SR389. 3 to RCAF as 9202 / 9204.

Post WW2

USAF

XB-17F	1	B-17F, used by NACA for tests.
ZB-17F	1+	B-17F, 1948, redesignation as "obsolete".
CB-17G	1+	B-17G, 1946, cargo / transport conversions.
DB-17G	1+	B-17G, 1947, redesignation of CQ-4's as drone directors.
(DB-17P)	4+	DB-17G, 1955, redesignation as drone director aircraft.
(QB-17P)	2	DB-17G, 1955, conversions as drone aircraft.

QB-17G	1+	B-17G, 1947, redesignation of BQ-7's as target drones.
(QB-17L)	1+	QB-17G, 1955, redesignation as target drones.
(QB-17N)	1+	QB-17G, 1955, redesignation as alternative target drone.
MB-17G	1+	B-17G, test beds wing mounted JB-2 flying bomb.
NB-17G	1+	B-17G, permanent conversion for test duties.
TB-17G	1+	B-17G, crew trainer conversion for B-17G.
VB-17G	1+	B-17G, staff transport.
WB-17G	1+	B-17G, weather reconn. aircraft.
XB-17G	1	B-17G, conversion for test duties.

(Model 299-Z) Converted B-17G.

EB-17G	2	1946, conversion for turboprop flight testing.
(JB-17G)	2	1956, redesignation of EB-17G.

(Model 299AB) Converted B-17G.

	1	1946, executive transport for TWA.
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US Navy

PB-1	1	B-17F, 1945, transfer to the US Navy. Assigned BuNo. 34106.
PB-1G	17	B-17G, 1946-1959, US Coast Guard air/sea rescue aircraft. Assigned BuNo. 77245 / 77257, 82855 / 82857, 84000.
PB-1W	31	B-17G, 1946, US Navy, fitted with APS-20 search radar. Assigned BuNo. 34114, 77137, 77138, 77225 / 77244, 77258, 83992 / 83998. 27 additional conversions cancelled.
(XPB-1)	1	PB1-W, redesignation as a jet engine test bed.

FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- Several B-17D / E captured and tested by the Japanese Armed Forces.
- Over seven B-17F / G captured and flown by Nazi Germany under the designation **Dornier Do 200**.
- B-17's in military or civil service during and post WW2 with Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, France, Israel, Portugal, Russia and Sweden.
- **Model 307 Stratoliner**, 1938, 10, pressurized civil airliner with B-17 wings, tail section and other components. 5 in military service 1942-44 as the **C-75**, assigned s/n: 42-88623 / 42-88627.
- Many civil conversions as freighters, fire fighting tankers and aerial-sprayers.