

GRUMMAN F8F BEARCAT

BEARCAT SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Grumman Aircraft Engr. Corp., Bethpage, Long Is.,
New York, USA

Model: G-58

Designations: F8F; F3M

Name: Bearcat

First official flight: XF8F-1 31/08/1944

Factory production period: 1944 – 1949

Primary service period: 1945 – 1953

Last official flight: F8F-1D / -2D 1956

BEARCAT VARIANTS

1944	Model G-58	XF8F-1	2	
1945	Model G-58	F8F-1 / -1B / -1N	770	
1947	Model G-58	F8F-1B	126	Total: 0898
1948	Model G-58	F8F-2 / -2N / -2P	365	Total: 0365
1947	Model G-58A / B	Model G-58A / B	2	Total: 0002
				<u>Total: 1265</u>

BEARCAT PRODUCTION

Military Aircraft

XF8F-1

Prototype single seat, carrier-based fighter.

produced 1944

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 90460, 90461 D-01, D-02

2 **Total: 0002**

F8F-1 / -1B / -1N

*As XF8F-1, engine upgrade, dorsal fin,
minor changes.*

*658 as **F8F-1** fighters.*

*100 as **F8F-1B** wing cannons.*

*12 as **F8F-1N** night-fighters.*

produced 1944 – 1947

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 90437 / 90459 D-1 / D-23

BuNo. 94752 / 95498 D-24 / D-770

770 **Total: 0770**

5253 additional airframes cancelled.

F8F-1B

As F8F-1, four 20mm wing cannons.

*Original designation was **F8F-1C**.*

produced 1947 – 1948

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 121463 / 121522 *mixed D-837 to D-1261*

BuNo. 122087 / 122152 *D-771 / D-836*

126 **Total: 0126**

F8F-2 / -2N / -2P

As XF8F-2, four 20mm wing cannons.

*293 as **F8F-1** fighters.*

*12 as **F8F-2N** night-fighters.*

*60 as **F8F-1P** photo reconn. version.*

produced 1948 – 1949

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 121523 / 121792 *mixed D-867 to D-1186*

BuNo. 122614 / 122708 *mixed D-1143 to D1261*

365 **Total: 0365**

Model G-58A / G-58B

Civil demonstration version.

*NX120IV: **G-58A Gulfhawk IV** (F8F-1),*

later to civil reg.: NL3025.

*N700A: **G-58B Redship** (F8F-2),*

later to civil reg.: N7700C.

produced 1947, 1949

Grumman Bethpage, New York

NX120IV (civil reg.) *D-739A*

N700A (civil reg.) *D-1262*

2 **Total: 0002**

F3M-1 – 1945, General Motors Corp. order for 1876 cancelled.

Total: 1265

BEARCAT CONVERSIONS

US Navy

F8F-1D 1+ F8F-1, 1949, drone director conversions.

F8F-1DB 1+ F8F-1B, unofficial designation for cannon armed French aircraft.

F8F-1E 1 F8F-1, 1945, night-fighter prototype, APS-4 radar.

XF8F-1N 2 F8F-1(94812, 94819), 1945, night-fighter prototypes, APS-19 radar.

F8F-1P 1 F8F-1, 1946, photo reconnaissance conversion.

XF8F-2 2 F8F-1(95049, 95330), 1947, engine upgrade, revised engine cowling, taller tail.

F8F-2D 1+ F8F-2, drone director conversions.

FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *Bearcats in service with the air forces of France S. Vietnam and Thailand.*

- *Several sold on the civil market as circuit racers and Warbirds.*