

CURTISS C-46 COMMANDO

C-46 SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Curtiss-Wright Corp., Airplane Division, Buffalo, New York, USA

Model: CW-20

Designations: C-46; C-55, C-113, R5C

Name: Commando

First official flight: CW-20 26 Mar 1940

Factory production period: 1940 – 1945

Primary service period: 1942 – 1953

Last official flight: C-46D Jun 1968

C-46 VARIANTS

1940	Model CW-20	CW-20	1	Total: 0001
1942	Model CW-20A	C-46	25	Total: 0025
1942	Model CW-20B	C-46A	1493	
1944	Model CW-20B-2	C-46D	1410	Total: 2903
1945	Model CW-20B-3	C-46E	17	
1945	Model CW-20B-4	C-46F	234	
1945	Model CW-20B-5	C-46G	1	Total: 0252
				<u>Total: 3181</u>

C-46 PRODUCTION

CW-20

Prototype twin engined civil transport, twin tail, pressurized. Impressed into service 1941 as C-55 with single tail. produced 1940

Curtiss St. Louis, Missouri (CS)
NX19436

101

1 **Total: 0001**

C-46

As CW-20, military troop transport, single tail, unpressurized, engine upgrade, 3-bladed props. produced 1942

Curtiss Buffalo, New York (CU)
41-5159 / 41-5183

26361 / 26385

25 **Total: 0025**

C-46A

*As C-46, cargo doors, folding seats
for troops, 4-bladed props.
produced 1942 – 1944*

Curtiss Louisville, Kentucky (CK)

43-46955 / 43-47304 26 / 375
43-47315 / 43-47402 386 / 472 438

- 1 airframe c/n not applied.

Curtiss St. Louis, Missouri (CS)

43-46953, 43-46954 24, 25
43-47305 / 43-47314 376 / 385 12

Curtiss Buffalo, New York (CU)

41-5184 / 41-5204 26386 / 26406
41-12280 / 41-12433 26407 / 26560
41-24640 / 41-24775 26561 / 26696
42-3564 / 42-3683 26697 / 26816
42-60942 / 42-61091 26817 / 26966
42-96529 / 42-96828 30191 / 30490

- 271 as C-46A-CU.

- 29 as C-46D-CU.

42-101036 / 42-101235 30492 / 30690

- 67 as C-46A-CU.

- 133 as C-46D-CU.

42-107280 / 42-107399 26967 / 27086

44-77444, 44-77446 32840, 32842 1041

Higgins New Orleans, Louisiana (HI)

43-43339, 43-43340 1, 2 2 **Total: 1493**

498 additional airframes cancelled.

C-46D

*As C-46A, troop carrier, double
rear paratroop doors.*

produced 1944 – 1945

Curtiss Buffalo, New York (CU)

162 mixed with C-46A-CU s/n.

44-77295 / 44-77443 32691 / 32839

44-77445 32841

44-77447 / 44-78344 32843 / 33740

44-78345 / 44-78544 22168 / 22367 1410 **Total: 1410**

C-46E

*As C-46D, stepped windscreen,
squared wingtips, single cargo
door, 3-bladed props.*

produced 1945

Curtiss St. Louis, Missouri (CS)

43-47403 / 43-47419 2929 / 2945 17 **Total: 0017**

533 additional airframes cancelled.

C-46F

*As C-46E, rounded nose, double
cargo doors, engine upgrade.*

produced 1945

Curtiss Buffalo, New York (CU)

44-78545 / 44-78778 22368 / 22601 234 **Total: 0234**

166 additional airframes cancelled.

C-46G

*As C-46E, double cargo doors,
engine upgrade.*

produced 1945

Curtiss Buffalo, New York (CU)

44-78945

22768

1 **Total: 0001**

599 additional airframes cancelled.

C-46I – Not used.

C-46J – Projected production version of C-46E, cancelled.

XC-46K – Projected production version of C-46F, cancelled.

Total: 3181

C-46 CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

Military Conversions

USAAF / USAF

TC-46A	1+	C-46A, crew trainers.
EC-46A	1+	C-46A, exempt airframes, also used for aircraft doing airways checks.
ZEC-46A	1	EC-46A, 1948, "obsolete" status for exempt conversions.
ZC-46A	1+	C-46A, 1948, redesignation as "obsolete."
XC-46A	1	C-46A (43-46956), temporary conversion for development tests.
XC-46C	2	C-46A, RATO (Rocket-Assisted Take-Off) conversions.
EC-46D	3	C-46A, 1973-1978, foreign designation for ECM trainers with the JASDF.
TC-46D	15	C-46D, crew trainers.
ZC-46E	17	C-46E, 1946, redesignation as "obsolete", sold to a civil operator.
C-46H	1	C-46A (42-107294), 1946, more powerful version of C-46F. Production order for 300 cancelled.
XC-113	1	C-46G, 1946-1948, 1 turboprop engine fitted for testing. Redesignated ZXC-113 in 1948 as "obsolete."

(Model CW-20B-1) XC-46B

1 C-46A (43-46953), 1943, stepped windscreen, engine upgrade.

(Model CW-20H) XC-46L

3 C-46A, 1945, engine upgrade.

(Model CW-20T) C-55

1 CW-20, 1941, Curtiss prototype impressed into USAAF service.
New s/n: 41-21041, later to England with BOAC (reg: G-AGDI).
Scrapped in 1943.

US Navy

R5C-1 **160** C-46A, 1942-1950s, aircraft in service with the USMC.
Assigned BuNo. 39492 / 39611, 50690 / 50729.
10 additional transfers cancelled.

(R5C-1T) 1+ R5C-1, 1954, crew trainers.

(R5C-1Z) 1+ R5C-1, 1946, VIP / staff transports.

Civil Conversions

L.B. Smith Aircraft Corp., Florida conversions:

Smith Super 46-C **1+** 1955, performance upgrades for civil applications.

Smith CW-20T **1+** 1956, engine upgrade, various improvements.
Riddle Airlines Inc., Florida conversion:
Riddle C-46R **1+** 1956, performance upgrades for civil applications.
Three versions: **C-46R-1, C-46R-5, C-46R-10.**

FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *Many sold to foreign military services post WW2.*
- *Many sold on civil market as freighters or airliners.*