

SIKORSKY H-5 DRAGONFLY

H-5 SERVICE

Manufacturer: Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Division, United Aircraft Corp.,
Stratford, Connecticut, USA
(In 1943, became Sikorsky Aircraft Division, United Aircraft
Corp., Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA)

Models: VS-327, S-51

Designations: R-5; H-5; HO2S, HO3S

Name: Dragonfly

First official flight: XR-5 18 Aug 1943
Model S-51 16 Feb 1946

Factory production period: 1943 – 1953

Primary service period: 1945 – 1950s

Last official flight: - -

H-5 VARIANTS

1943	Model VS-327	XR-5	5	
1944	Model VS-327	YR-5A	26	
1945	Model VS-327	R-5A	34	Total: 065

1947	Model S-51	R-5F	11	
1948	Model S-51	H-5G	39	
1949	Model S-51	H-5H	16	Total: 066

1946	Model S-51	HO3S-1	90	
1949	Model S-51	HO3S-1G	5	Total: 095

1946	Model S-51	Model S-51	59	Total: 059
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Total: 285

Foreign built – England:

1948	Model WS-51	Dragonfly Series	137	<u>Total: 137</u>
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H-5 PRODUCTION

Military Helicopters

XR-5

*Prototype, single-engined, 3-bladed rotor,
tandem 2-seater, tail wheel, general
purpose helicopter for USAAF.
produced 1943 – 1944*

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)

43-28236 / 43-28239 33 / 36

43-47954 37

5 **Total: 005**

YR-5A

As XR-5, service test version, minor changes.
 Redesignated as **YH-5A** in 1948.
 produced 1944 – 1945

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)
 43-46600 / 43-46625 144 / 169

26 **Total: 026**

R-5A

As YR-5A, production version
 equipped for rescue duties.
 Redesignated as **H-5A** in 1948.
 produced 1945 – 1946

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)
 43-46626 / 43-46659 170 / 203
 66 additional airframes cancelled.

34 **Total: 034**

R-5B – Proposed R-5A modification, cancelled.

YR-5C – cancelled project.

R-5F

As R-5D, 4-seater cabin, minor changes.
 Redesignated as **H-5F** in 1948.
 produced 1947

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)
 47-480 / 47-490 mixed 51-20 to 51-51

11 **Total: 011**

H-5G

As R-5F, minor changes.
 produced 1948 – 1949

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)
 48-524 / 48-562 mixed 51-68 to 51-160

39 **Total: 039**

H-5H

As H-5G, wheel / pontoon landing gear.
 produced 1949 – 1950

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (SI)
 49-1996 / 49-2011 mixed 51-179 to 51-211

16 **Total: 016**

HO3S-1

As H-5F, rescue version for US Navy.
 produced

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (S)
 BuNo. 57995 / 57998 mixed 51-10 to 51-14
 BuNo. 122508 / 122527 mixed 51-43 to 51-86
 BuNo. 122529 51-24
 BuNo. 122709 / 122728 mixed 51-87 to 51-131
 BuNo. 123118 / 123143 mixed 51-132 to 51-176
 BuNo. 124334 / 124352 mixed 51-177 to 51-213
 1 (BuNo. 124353) additional airframe cancelled.

90 **Total: 090**

HO3S-1G

As HO3S-1, USCG version. Later
 re-serialled 1234 / 1238.4 more
 acquired from civil production.

produced

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut (S)
 (USCG) 234 / 238 mixed 51-145 to 51-217

5 **Total: 005**

HO3S-2 – Reserved for US Navy version of H-5H, cancelled.

Civil Helicopters

Model S-51

Civil version with 4-seater cabin, developed from the R-5D. Several military customers.

produced 1945 – 1951

Sikorsky Bridgeport, Connecticut

civil / mil reg. mixed 51-01 to 51-220 59 **Total: 059**

- 1 to US Navy as **HO3S-1**,
BuNo. 122528.

- 4 to USCG as **HO3S-1G**, s/n:
230 / 233 (later re-serialised
1230 / 1233).

- 7 to Canada as 9601 / 9607.

Total: 285

Foreign built – England:

Dragonfly Series

License built version for UK. 6 ex-US machines imported for tests. 2 to RAF as VW209 (c/n: 51-26) and WB220 (c/n: 51-17).

produced 1947 – 1953

Westland Aircraft Ltd., Yeovil,
Somerset, England

Dragonfly Series 1A / 1B

1948, civil / foreign military version.

Srs. 1A had the British Alvis engine.

Srs. 1B had the US Pratt & Whitney engine.

Later developed into the Westland (S-51A

Series 2) Widgeon (1955, 13 built).

civil / mil reg. mixed WA/H/1 to WA/H/139 51

- 2 (c/n: 135, 136) cancelled.

- 4 to RAF as WB810, WF308,
WZ749, XD649.

Dragonfly HR.Mk. 1

RN Helicopter Rescue version.

(RN) VX595 / VX600 mixed WA/H/8 to WA/H/15

(RN) VZ960 / VZ966 mixed WA/H/18 to WA/H/25 13

- VZ960 to RAF as HC.Mk. 2.

Dragonfly HC.Mk. 2

RAF Helicopter Cargo version.

(RAF) WF311, WF315 WA/H/16, WA/H/17 2

Dragonfly HR.Mk. 3

RN Helicopter Rescue version.

(RN) WG661 / WG672 WA/H/31 / WA/H/42

(RN) WG705 / WG709 WA/H/43 / WA/H/47

(RN) WG714 WA/H/28

(RN) WG718 / WG726 WA/H/49 / WA/H/57

- WG725 to RAF.

(RN) WG748 / WG754 WA/H/58 / WA/H/64

(RN) WH989 / WH992	WA/H/65 / WA/H/68	
(RN) WN492 / WN500	WA/H/69 / WA/H/77	
(RN) WP493 / WP504	WA/H/78 / WA/H/89	59
<i>18 additional airframes cancelled.</i>		
Dragonfly HC.Mk. 4		
<i>RAF Helicopter Cargo version.</i>		
(RAF) WT845, WT846	WA/H/108, WA/H/109	
(RAF) WX953	WA/H/110	
(RAF) XF259 / XF261	WA/H/105 / WA/H/107	6
Dragonfly HR.Mk. 4		
<i>RAF Helicopter Rescue version.</i>		
(RAF) XB251 / XB256	WA/H/124 / WA/H/129	6
		<u>Total: 137</u>

H-5 CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

USAAF / USAF

XR-5A	2	XR-5, fitted with different equipment to RAF specs.
R-5D	21	1 YR-5A (43-46606) / 20 R-5A (43-46640 / 43-46659), 1944, factory fitted engine upgrade, nose wheel, rescue hoist, external fuel tank. The YR-5A conversion designated as YR-5D .
(H-5D)	21	1948, redesignation of the R-5D.
YR-5E	5	YR-5A (43-46611 / 43-46615), 1947, conversions with dual controls.
(YH-5E)	5	1948, redesignation of the YR-5E.

US Navy

HO2S-1	2	YR-5A, 1945, transfers to the USN for evaluation, later to USCG. Assigned BuNo. 75689 (43-46613), 75690 (43-46618). Production for 42 cancelled.
XHO3S-3	1	HO3S-1, 1950, prototype with redesigned rotor.

Foreign Conversions

Dragonfly HR.Mk. 5

11	HR.Mk. 3, Royal Navy conversions, updated equipment.
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FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *H-5 helicopters in both military and civil service with Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Egypt, France, Iraq, Italy, Japan, The Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.*

- *The S-51 was the world's first helicopter to enter commercial service.*