

# GRUMMAN F6F HELLCAT

## HELLCAT SERVICE

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

*Models:* G-50; G-54, G-59, G-60, G-61, G-69

*Designations:* F6F; FV

*Name:* Hellcat

*First official flight:* XF6F-1 26 Jun 1942

*Factory production period:* 1942 – 1945

*Primary service period:* 1943 – 1954

*Last official flight:* F6F-5D / -5K May 1961

## HELLCAT VARIANTS

1942	<b>Model G-50</b>	<b>XF6F-1</b>	1	
1942	<b>Model G-50</b>	<b>XF6F-3</b>	1	<b>Total: 00002</b>
1942	<b>Model G-50</b>	<b>F6F-3</b>	4402	<b>Total: 04402</b>
1944	<b>Model G-50</b>	<b>F6F-5</b>	6341	
1944	<b>Model G-50</b>	<b>F6F-5N</b>	1529	<b>Total: 07870</b>
				<b><u>Total: 12274</u></b>

## HELLCAT PRODUCTION

### **XF6F-1**

*Prototype carrier-based fighter, large prop spinner. Later with engine upgrade, re-serialised as BuNo. 02982, redesignated as **XF6F-3**.*

*produced 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 02981 3188

**1 Total: 00001**

### **XF6F-3**

*Ordered as XF6F-1, then XF6F-2, again redesignated after engine upgrade. Later re-serialised as BuNo. 02981. Later converted as the **XF6F-4**.*

*produced 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 02982 3189

**1 Total: 00001**

## F6F-3

As XF6F-3, 6 wing guns, drop tank, prop spinner deleted, redesigned u/c, folding wings. Later airframes had engine upgrade, minor changes. 229 as **F6F-3N** night-fighter with radar upgrade. produced 1942 – 1944

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 04775 / 04958 -

BuNo. 08798 / 09047 -

BuNo. 25721 / 26195 -

BuNo. 39999 / 43136 -

BuNo. 65890 / 66244 -

4402 **Total: 04402**

*FV-1 – Canadian-Vickers built version of F6F-3, orders cancelled.*

*F6F-4 – 1943, proposed light-weight version, cancelled.*

## F6F-5

As late F6F-3, strengthened airframe, new cowling, redesigned canopy glass, underwing rockets / bombs. Later airframes had 4 wing guns and 2 cannons. Some later converted to **F6F-5N**. produced 1944 – 1945

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 58000 / 58999 -

BuNo. 69992 / 71462 -

BuNo. 77259 / 80258 -

BuNo. 93652 / 94521 -

6341 **Total: 06341**

630 additional airframes cancelled.

## F6F-5N

As F6F-5, night-fighter version with APS-6 radar. Additional airframes converted from **F6F-5**. produced 1944 – 1945

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 71463 / 72991 -

1529 **Total: 01529**

1047 additional airframes cancelled.

*Model G-54, G-59, G-60, G-61, G-69 – Proposed designs and upgrades, all cancelled.*

**Total: 12274**

## HELLCAT CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

### US Navy

<b>XF6F-2</b>	1	F6F-3 (BuNo. 66244), 1944, prototype with turbo-supercharger, 4-bladed prop. Later back to F6F-3 standard, delivered as BuNo. 43137.
F6F-3E	18	F6F-3, 1943, night-fighter conversions with wing mounted APS-4 radar.
F6F-3F	1	F6F-3, experimental engine upgrade.
F6F-3K	1+	F6F-3, 1946, conversions to radio controlled drones.
XF6F-3N	1	F6F-3, 1943, prototype factory conversion, night-fighter with ASP-6 radar. 228 F6F-3N production aircraft followed.
F6F-3P	1+	F6F-3, photo reconnaissance conversions.
<b>XF6F-4</b>	1	XF6F-1 (BuNo. 02981), 1942-1946, engine / 4 cannon armament upgrade.

F6F-5D	1+	F6F-5, 1949-1961, conversions as drone directors.
F6F-5E	1+	F6F-5, night-fighter conversions with wing mounted APS-4 radar.
F6F-5K	1+	F6F-5 / -5N, 1949-1961, conversions to radio controlled drones.
F6F-5P	1+	F6F-5, photo reconnaissance conversions.
<b>XF6F-6</b>	<b>2</b>	F6F-5 (BuNo. 70188, 70913), 1944, engine upgrade, 4-bladed prop.

### **British Royal Navy**

*Original name was **Gannet**, changed to **Hellcat** in 1943.*

<b>Hellcat Mk. I</b>	<b>252</b>	F6F-3, 1943-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: FN320 / FN449, JV100 / JV221.
<b>Hellcat Mk. II</b>	<b>849</b>	F6F-5, 1944-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: JV222 / JV324, JW700 / JW784, JW857 / JW899, JX670 / JX964, JX968 / JX999, JZ775 / JZ827, JZ912 / JZ946, JZ960 / JZ964, JZ968 / JZ994, KD118 / KD152, KD158 / KD160, KE118 / KE159, KE170 / KE214, KE220 / KE265. <i>Conversions: <b>FR.Mk. II</b>, <b>PR.Mk. II</b>.</i>
<b>Hellcat NF.Mk. II</b>	<b>76</b>	F6F-5N, 1944-1945, night-fighter version for the Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: JX965 / JX967, JZ890 / JZ911, JZ947 / JZ959, JZ965 / JZ967, JZ995 / JZ999, KD108 / KD117, KD153 / KD157, KE160 / KE169, KE215 / KE219.

### **FOREIGN MILITARY SERVICE**

*- F6F Hellcats in service post WW2 with Argentina, France, Paraguay and Uruguay.*