

# CURTISS SB2C HELLDIVER

## HELLDIVER SERVICE

*Manufacturers:* The Curtiss-Wright Corp., Airplane Division, Buffalo, New York, USA  
Fairchild Aircraft Ltd., Longueuil, P.Q., Quebec, Canada  
Canadian Car & Foundry Co. Ltd., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

*Model:* 84 (Developed from the 1933 Curtiss SBC Helldiver biplane)

*Designations:* SB2C; A-25, SBF, SBW

*Names:* Helldiver; Shrike (A-25A)

*First official flight:* XSB2C-1 18 Dec 1940  
*Factory production period:* 1940 – 1945  
*Primary service period:* 1943 – 1946  
*Last official flight:* RA-25A Apr 1949

## HELLDIVER VARIANTS

1940	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>XSB2C-1</b>	1	
1942	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SB2C-1</b>	200	
1942	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>A-25A</b>	900	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SB2C-1C</b>	778	
1944	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SB2C-3</b>	1112	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SB2C-4</b>	2045	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SB2C-5</b>	970	<b>Total: 6006</b>

*Foreign built – Canada:*

1943	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBF-1</b>	50	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBF-3</b>	150	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBF-4E</b>	100	<b>Total: 0300</b>

1943	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBW-1</b>	38	
1943	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBW-1B</b>	28	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBW-3</b>	413	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBW-4E</b>	270	
-	<b>Model 84</b>	<b>SBW-5</b>	85	<b>Total: 0834</b>

**Total: 7140**

## HELLDIVER PRODUCTION

### **XSB2C-1**

*Prototype single-engined,  
2-seater Scout Bomber.  
produced  
Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)  
BuNo. 1758*

**1 Total: 0001**

### **SB2C-1**

*As XSB2C-1, design and armament upgrade.*

*produced*

Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)

BuNo. 00001 / 00200      1 / 200

200 **Total: 0200**

### **A-25A Shrike**

*As SB2C-1, for USAAF, carrier features deleted. Redesignated as **RA-25A** in 1943 for target tow and trainer duties.*

*produced 1942 – 1944*

Curtiss St. Louis, Missouri (CS)

41-18774 / 41-18873      -

42-79663 / 42-80462      -

- 10 to RAAF as A69-1 / A69-10.

- 270 diverted to USN as **SB2C-1A**.

- 410 diverted later as **SB2C-1A** to USMC:

BuNo. 75218 / 75588

BuNo. 76780 / 76818

*2200 additional airframes cancelled.*

900 **Total: 0900**

### **SB2C-1C**

*As SB2C-1, four wing cannons, redesigned flaps.*

*produced*

Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)

BuNo. 00201 / 00370      201 / 370

BuNo. 01008 / 01208      371 / 571

BuNo. 18192 / 18598      572 / 978

*7 additional airframes cancelled.*

778 **Total: 0778**

*SB2C-2 – Floatplane based on the XSB2C-2 conversion, production for 287 cancelled.*

### **SB2C-3**

*As SB2C-1, engine upgrade, 4-bladed prop.*

*produced*

Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)

BuNo. 18599 / 19710      979 / 2090

1112 **Total: 1112**

### **SB2C-4**

*As SB2C-3, wing mounted rockets / bombs.*

*produced*

Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)

BuNo. 19711 / 21191      2091 / 3577

BuNo. 64993 / 65286      3572 / 3865

BuNo. 82858 / 83127      3866 / 4135

*110 additional aircraft cancelled.*

2045 **Total: 2045**

**SB2C-5**

*As SB2C-4, greater fuel capacity,  
minor changes.*

*produced*

Curtiss Columbus, Ohio (C)

BuNo. 83128 / 83751      4136 / 4759

BuNo. 89120 / 89465      4760 / 5105

*2500 additional airframes cancelled.*

970 **Total: 0970**

*Foreign built – Canada:*

**SBF-1**

*Fairchild-Canada built **SB2C-1.***

*produced*

Fairchild Aircraft Ltd., Longueuil, P.Q.,

Quebec, Canada (F)

BuNo. 31636 / 31685      -

50 **Total: 0050**

*SBF-2 – Not used.*

**SBF-3**

*Fairchild-Canada built **SB2C-3.***

*produced*

Fairchild Aircraft Ltd., Longueuil, P.Q.,

Quebec, Canada (F)

BuNo. 31686 / 31835      -

150 **Total: 0150**

*SBF-4 – Not used.*

**SBF-4E**

*Fairchild-Canada built **SB2C-4E.***

*produced*

Fairchild Aircraft Ltd., Longueuil, P.Q.,

Quebec, Canada (F)

BuNo. 31836 / 31935      -

100 **Total: 0100**

**SBW-1**

*CCF built **SB2C-1.** BuNo. 21198*

*later converted to an **SBW-3.***

*produced*

Canadian Car & Foundry Co. (CCF),

Fort William, Ontario, Canada (W)

BuNo. 21192 / 21200      -

BuNo. 21203 / 21231      -

*1 (BuNo. 21232), additional airframe cancelled.*

38 **Total: 0038**

**SBW-1B**

*As **SB2C-1C,** Lend-Lease to Royal Navy.*

*produced 1943 – 1944*

Canadian Car & Foundry Co. (CCF),

Fort William, Ontario, Canada (W)

BuNo. 60011, 60012      -

*26 delivered as **Helldiver DB.Mk. I** to the Royal Navy:*

BuNo. 21201, 21202      -

*(RN) JW101, JW102*

BuNo. 60010	-	
(RN) JW100		
BuNo. 60013 / 60035	-	28
(RN) JW103 / JW125		<b>Total: 0028</b>

*SBW-2 – Not used.*

### **SBW-3**

*CCF built SB2C-3.  
produced*  
Canadian Car & Foundry Co. (CCF),  
Fort William, Ontario, Canada (W)  
BuNo. 21233 / 21645 - 413 **Total: 0413**

*SBW-4 – Not used.*

### **SBW-4E**

*CCF built SB2C-4E.  
produced*  
Canadian Car & Foundry Co. (CCF),  
Fort William, Ontario, Canada (W)  
BuNo. 21646 / 21741 -  
BuNo. 60036 / 60209 - 270 **Total: 0270**

### **SBW-5**

*CCF built SB2C-5.  
produced*  
Canadian Car & Foundry Co. (CCF),  
Fort William, Ontario, Canada (W)  
BuNo. 60211 / 60295 - 85 **Total: 0085**  
*165 additional airframes cancelled.*

**Total: 7140**

## **HELLDIVER CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS**

### **US Navy**

<b>XSB2C-2</b>	1	SB2C-1 (BuNo. 00005), 1942, prototype floatplane conversion.
<b>XSB2C-3</b>	1	SB2C-1 (BuNo. 00008), engine upgrade.
<b>SB2C-3E</b>	1+	SB2C-3, APS-4 radar pod fitted.
<b>SB2C-4E</b>	1+	SB2C-4, APS-4 radar pod fitted.
<b>XSB2C-5</b>	3	2 SB2C-4 (BuNo. 65286, 83127) / 1 SB2C-1C (BuNo. 18308), prototype to SB2C-5.
<b>XSB2C-6</b>	2	SB2C-3 (BuNo. 18620, 18621), engine upgrade, higher fuel load.
<b>XSBF-1</b>	1	SBF-1, conversion for development tests.

### **FOREIGN MILITARY SERVICE**

*- Surplus Helldivers in service post WW2 with Australia, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Thailand.*