

Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty Units Of World War Combat Aircraft 22

During World War II, the Mitsubishi Type Rikko, commonly known as the Betty, played a significant role in the Japanese military. Its sleek design, impressive performance, and devastating bombing capabilities made it one of the most feared combat aircraft of the time. In this article, we will explore the history, specifications, and notable units of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty in World War II.

to the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty

The Mitsubishi Type Rikko, classified as a medium bomber, was developed and produced by the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries for the Imperial Japanese Navy. Its primary objective was to replace the older Mitsubishi G3M bombers and provide a more advanced and reliable aircraft for combat purposes.

The Type Rikko Betty was first introduced in 1940 and remained in service until the end of the war in 1945. It showcased several innovative features, including an all-metal construction, retractable landing gear, and an advanced bombing system.



Mitsubishi Type 1 Rikko 'Betty' Units of World War 2 (Combat Aircraft Book 22)

by Osamu Tagaya(Kindle Edition)

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Specifications of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty

The Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty had an impressive range and payload capacity, which made it a formidable force during World War II. Here are some of its notable specifications:

- Maximum Speed: 280 mph (450 km/h)
- Range: 2,500 miles (4,000 km)
- Crew: 7
- Armament: One 20 mm cannon, seven 7.7 mm machine guns, and up to 1,764 pounds (800 kg) of bombs
- Engine: Two Mitsubishi MK4A Kasei 11 radial engines
- Wingspan: 67 feet 3 inches (20.5 m)
- Length: 54 feet 1 inch (16.5 m)

Notable Units of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty

Several units of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty were deployed during World War II, and some gained significant recognition for their achievements. Let's take a look at a few of them:

1. Kanoya Air Group

The Kanoya Air Group was one of the primary users of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty. They were responsible for carrying out bombing raids on various targets, including enemy ships and airfields. Their precision and accuracy in executing these missions made them a feared opponent in the Pacific theater.

2. 751st Naval Air Group

The 751st Naval Air Group was particularly renowned for its role in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. They unleashed a series of devastating attacks on the Allied forces, causing severe damage to the US ships. Their success in this battle solidified their reputation as skilled pilots and highlighted the effectiveness of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty.

3. 708th Naval Air Group

The 708th Naval Air Group operated the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty primarily in the defense of the Japanese homeland. They were tasked with intercepting Allied aircraft and protecting vital installations. Despite the challenging circumstances, they managed to inflict significant losses on the enemy air forces.

Legacy of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty

The Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty left a lasting impact on the history of World War II and the aviation industry. Its advanced features and impressive performance set a new standard for medium bombers. However, as the war progressed, advancements in Allied technologies and tactics made the Betty more vulnerable to attacks.

Today, only a few Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty aircraft remain in existence. These rare relics serve as a reminder of the technological advancements made during the war and the pilots who risked their lives flying them.

The Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty was an exceptional combat aircraft that played a crucial role in the Japanese military strategy during World War II. Its design, capabilities, and notable units showcased the effectiveness of this medium bomber. While it ultimately succumbed to technological advancements, the legacy of the Mitsubishi Type Rikko Betty continues to live on, reminding us of the ingenuity and sacrifice of the pilots and engineers who contributed to its development.



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The most produced Japanese bomber of the war the G4M saw action on every front from the first day of the Pacific conflict through to VJ-Day. The 'Betty's' very long range made it a key weapon during the opening year of the war. However, to achieve this, the aircraft was built with very little protective armour for its crew or fuel tanks, and Allied pilots soon exposed its extreme vulnerability. In the first in a series of volumes examining the key Japanese aircraft of WW2, Dr Osamu Tagaya details the G4M's extensive combat history, and lists all the units which operated the bomber.



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