

Tell-tale Indicator



On earlier series A-26's there is an entirely new instrument, the tell-tale indicator. The purpose and the operation of this instrument are described below. On later series the instrument has been eliminated, because the latest A-26 tactics do not require the tell-tale indicator.

The purpose of the tell-tale indicator is to show the pilot exactly where his gunner is aiming. It eliminates confusing interphone chatter and makes it possible for you and your gunner to work together as a highly coordinated team.

A green luminous spot appears on the face of the dial and indicates the direction of fire from the turret guns. For example: When the guns are pointed in the aft hemisphere of rotation, the spot is round. When the guns are rotated to the forward hemisphere, a horn appears on the spot. The guns stop firing when the spot is in the shaded area on the dial.

Wing Guns

Eight .50-cal. machine guns are mounted on hangers suspended from the wings (four on each side) outboard of the engine nacelles. Ammunition boxes are carried in the wing.

Only one charging handle is needed for each set of four guns. They must be charged before takeoff.

Wing Gun Trigger

The trigger for all machine guns is on the left side of your control wheel.

Nose Guns

Regardless of what your combination of armament in the all-purpose nose is, you operate all the guns with one set of controls. The nose guns, like the wing guns, must be charged before you take off. You cannot charge them from the pilot's compartment once you are in the air. The same trigger on the left-hand side of your control wheel operates the nose and wing guns simultaneously.

Bombing Equipment

Your airplane has wing and fuselage bomb racks adapted for carrying variable bomb loads up to 6000 lbs.

Fuselage Bombs

There are four bomb rack panels in the bomb bay, two forward and two aft. The right and left forward bomb rack panels have seven bomb stations each, but only five of them may be used at any one time. The right and left aft bomb rack panels have five bomb stations each, but only three of them can be used at any one time. Each station is plainly marked for the size bomb to be carried.

Heavy Bombs

Bombs of 500 or 1000 lbs. are carried in a single station installed farther forward.

Torpedoes

A second single-station panel is provided between the forward and aft bomb bays to carry two torpedoes.

The A-26 is an extremely versatile offensive weapon. It has tremendous strafing firepower. It can bomb from various altitudes down to skip bombing, and it can launch torpedoes. But remember, although there are 24 bomb stations altogether, only 16 of those stations can be used at any one time.