From the Desk of Col George Dodenhoff, USMC â€“ Part 6

Description

MEMORANDUM
FROM THE DESK OF
GEORGE H DODENHOFF
COLONEL OF MARINES

Col Dodenhoff â€“ Total Flight Hours 1943 Page â€“ 19431226-450w.png

Subtitle: Flying the SNV-1, or â€œthe Vultee Vibratorâ€• (the assigned name â€œValiantâ€•)

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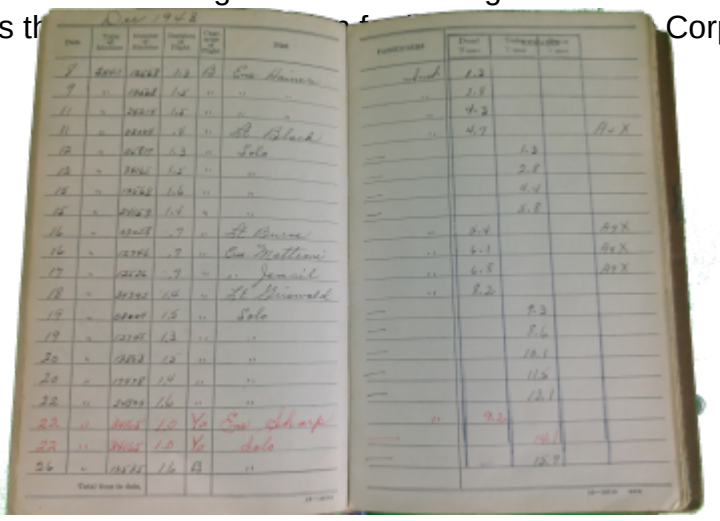
As noted on the Wikipedia page linked above, the initial designation of this aircraft was the BT-13, and the SNV-1 was a batch of 1350 planes transferred to the US Navy. This airplane was the most produced primary fight trainer of all types in the WWII era.

I missed this new aircraft type in the Colâ€™s logbook, until one of our breakfast crew, who had flow it himself in the early post-war time frame, exclaimed â€œOh, he flew the Vibrator!â€• while looking at the logbooks.

Many years ago, I first was introduced to the Vultee Vibrator when Jim Helinger, Sr, walked up to one at Sun nâ€™ Fun, placed his hand on the fuselage and said â€œWe called this the Vibrator!â€•

Here is the December 1943 logbook entries noting Col Dode took his first fights in his second aircraft type, which was th Corps and Army Air Corps trainees.



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Jim, Sr did note this aircraft was the secondary trainer for those cadets marked for the fighter pilot assignments. I donâ€™t recall the airframe that future bomber pilots would be next trained in.

Hereâ€™s some historical video, albeit from the Army Air Corps viewpoint, Iâ€™m reasonably certain the fight training in this aircarft would have been very similar in all services.

Bonus material: The BT-13 History Site.

Category

1. Aviation
2. Col Dodenhoff
3. History
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Tags

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1. BT-13
2. flight training
3. NAS Corpus Christi
4. US Navy SNV-1
5. Vultee Valiant
6. Vultee Virbator
7. WWII Primary flight training

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