

WHEN THE NAVY FLEW MARAUDERS

THE LITTLE-KNOWN MARTIN JM-1 AND JM-2 MARAUDERS
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As can be seen, this issue contains a fair amount of material on the Martin B-26 Marauder. This article focuses on a little-known aspect of Marauder production and operation — the aircraft flown by the US Navy. These Marauders were delivered mid-war for an unusual assignment and in Navy service they were designated JM-1 and JM-2. As with many combat aircraft of the time period, when one service wanted a particular warplane then it was often drawn off existing orders already placed by another service. Such was the case with the Navy Marauders.

The initial JM-1s were taken from USAAF orders placed with the Martin factory in Maryland. Some 200 AT-23B-MO (later redesignated TB-26Cs) aircraft slated to be used by the Army Air Force as trainers were transferred to the Navy while 25 B-26C-45-MO variants built at the company's facility in Omaha were



Its overall yellow paint a bit faded, JM-1 BuNo 66783 was photographed in 1945. Note the completely empty nose area and where the rear fuselage turret was covered over. (William T. Larkins)



Magnificent portrait of a JM-1 from VJ-2 lifting off from the white coral strip on an island base. The pilot has hit the gear retract and the gear is already well on its way into the wells.