

From the Desk of Col George Dodenhoff, USMC – Part 6

Description



Col Dodenhoff – Total Flight Hours 1943 Page – 19431226-450w.png

Subtitle: Flying the [SNV-1, or “the Vultee Vibrator” \(the assigned name “Valiant”\)](#)

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 flight trainer of all types in the WWII era.

I missed this new aircraft type in the Col’s logbook, until one of our breakfast crew, who had flown it himself in the early post-war time frame, exclaimed “Oh, he flew the Vibrator!” 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 n’ Fun, placed his hand on the fuselage and said “We called this the Vibrator!”

Here is the December 1943 logbook entries noting Col Dode took his first flights in his second aircraft type, which was the normal progression for both Navy/Marine Corps and Army Air Corps trainees.



[Click for a larger image](#)

Jim, Sr did note this aircraft was the secondary trainer for those cadets marked for the fighter pilot assignments. I don’t recall the airframe that future bomber pilots would be next trained in.

Here’s some historical video, albeit from the Army Air Corps viewpoint, I’m reasonably certain the flight training in this aircraft would have been very similar in all services.

Bonus material: [The BT-13 History Site](#).

Category

1. Aviation
2. Col Dodenhoff
3. History
4. Marines
5. Military
6. Military History

7. Navy

Tags

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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