



FIGHTING PLANE OF THE WEEK

**JAPANESE AICHI-99
DIVE-BOMBER**

When, on that memorable December 7, 1941, Jap bombers came roaring out of the dawn to drop their bombs on Pearl Harbor, the Aichi-99 was among those present. Carrier-based for the attack, as it often is, this Jap dive bomber has since been used widely by both the Army and the Navy in the far east.

That Jap dive bombers are to be treated with respect is obvious from the amount of damage they have wreaked upon U.S. craft in the Pacific, and from reports, this plane is rated well up at the top of the list in the Jap air force. Unlike many Jap war planes, it appears to originate wholly from Japanese designs, and not from the drawing boards of German, Italian or even American designers.

CARRIES DETACHABLE BELLY TANK

The speed of the Aichi-99 is over 230 m.p.h. at 10,000 feet. Its range varies from 450 to 1,300 miles, the greater distance being obtained by means of a detachable belly tank.

Its typical armament consists of two fixed 7.7 mm. machine guns firing forward and one 7.7 mm. flexible machine gun in the rear cockpit. The full bombload is 1,100 pounds, and it carries a crew of two, a pilot and a gunner who can also act as co-pilot and radio operator.

LEARN THESE CHARACTERISTICS

- TYPE:** Land monoplane; single motor.
WING: Dihedral, slightly sweptback toward tip, tapered elliptical tip, low wing.
TAIL: Single fin and rudder on horizontal tailplane.
NOTE: Blunt nose, fixed landing gear, elliptical shape of wing.

