

Seventeenth of the Second Series

FRIEND or FOE?

Two Opposing Flying-boats : Catalina
and Do 24

CONSOLIDATED CATALINA: Characterised by the prominent blister gun turrets in the wide hull. The retracting wing-tip floats are also a feature exclusive to the Catalina.

ALTHOUGH there should not be much fear of mistaken identity as between the Consolidated Catalina and the Dornier Do 24, it must not be forgotten that our Dutch allies acquired a number of this German type, primarily for service in the Dutch East Indies. In the latest phase of hostilities in the Pacific, therefore, it may well be that the appearance of a Do 24 flying-boat does not mean the approach of an enemy aircraft. Incidentally the Dutch Do 24s were fitted with Wright Cyclone engines instead of the German B.M.W. radials.

The Catalina is a comparatively easy machine to identify, for it has distinctive lines—and good-looking ones at that—and has received so much photographic publicity since the first lease-lend model began service with Coastal Command, that its appearance is familiar to almost everyone. From an underneath rear view the Catalina will be more easily recognised by the large gun-blister on its flanks, and by the double struts running up from the side of its hull to the high pedestal-type wing, than by its actual tail surfaces.

From anything approaching a side view, however, the wide curve of the fin's leading-edge and the straight, slightly sloping trailing-edge of the rudder will be quite distinctive. The tailplane, which tapers on the leading-edge only, is set about halfway up the fin and is of the cantilever type. An unusual feature is that the centre portion of the trailing-edge passes through a slot in the rudder instead of the more usual arrangement of a "bite" for rudder clearance.

One of the chief features of the Do 24—its three engines—is inevit-

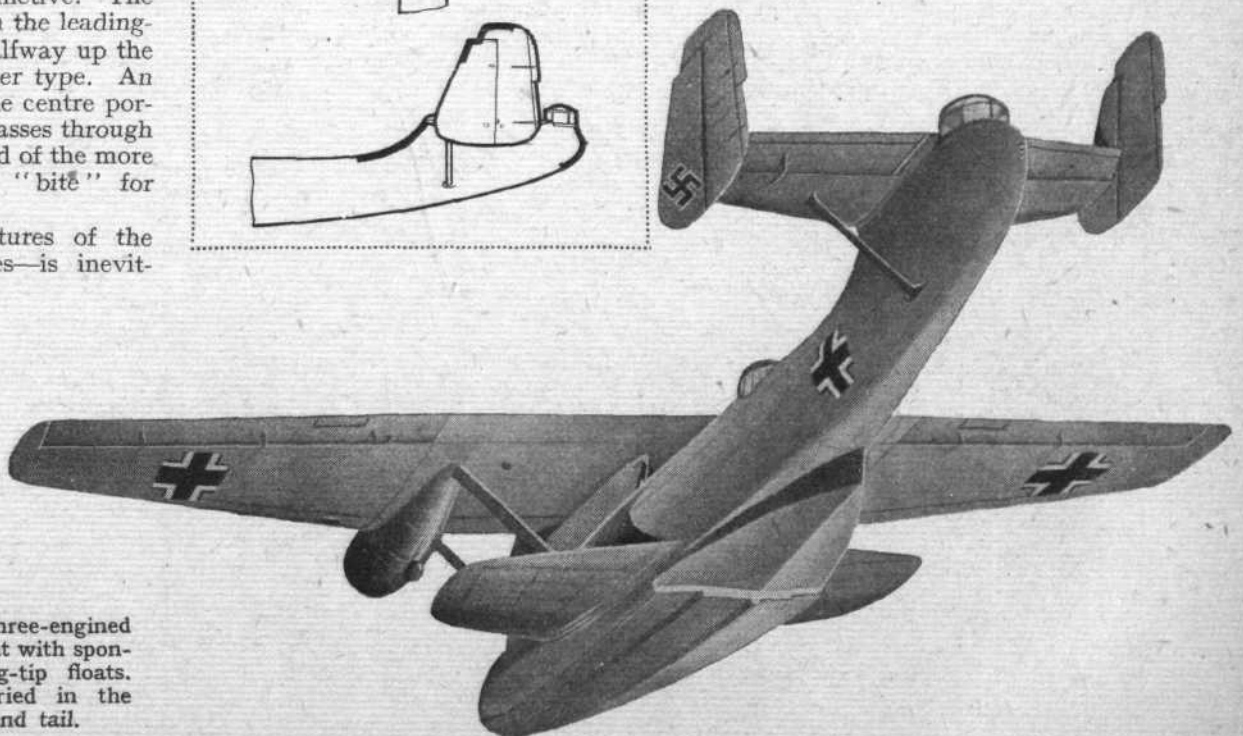
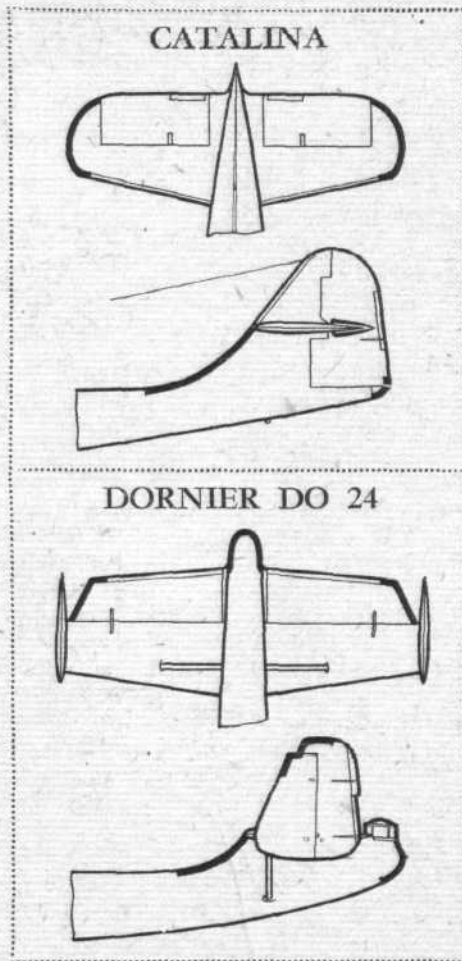
ably masked by its hull when the machine is seen from below and astern and so, in considering identification from this angle, it ceases to be of much importance.

What is immediately apparent, however, are the sea-wings, or sponsons, to which the parasol high-wing is strut-braced. The tail assembly, also, is a prominent feature, with its twin fins and rudders and "pillbox" gun turret set above the rounded, projecting extremity of the hull.

In plan view it will be seen how the tips of the elevators are shelved inwards, away from the outrigger fins and rudders, the tailplane structure being braced on each side by a single strut. The plan view of the tail of the hull, also, is rounded to accommodate the rear defensive gun position. From a side view, the peculiar shape of the fins and rudders forms a useful guide to identity—especially the step formed by the short horn-balance at the top of the sloping leading-edge.

The upward curve of the hull immediately in front of the tailplane is another point to note.

Next week: Fairy Albacore and Swordfish.



DORNIER DO 24: A three-engined high wing arrangement with sponsons instead of wing-tip floats. Gun turrets are carried in the nose, amidships and tail.