



Combat airplanes—wicked, swift, deadly. These are the lean, knife-clean engines of war—the latest type pursuit planes built for the army air corps. The two machines in the foreground in the picture above are Seversky P-35 single-seaters. As depicted here they are part of the fighter escort accompanying the heavy Martin bombers flying on a war mission 500 feet below. It is the duty of pilots flying pursuit airplanes to protect their own observation, attack, transport, and bombardment squadrons and to intercept and shoot down hostile aircraft. Crack pilots of the air corps aspire to be members of the single-seat fighter

squadrons, for here airmen find themselves pitted alone against enemy pilots. Individual skill and marksmanship are counted higher in the pursuit squadrons than in any other branch of the flying army. Only one of the type P-35 fighters as yet has been delivered to the air corps, but 77 of them, with spares for 13 more, now are being turned out in the Seversky plant at Farmingdale, Long Island, N. Y. These machines are probably the fastest fighting airplanes in the world and among the most deadly aircraft of their type ever constructed. The army's entire order of the fighters will be placed in service during 1937 with the pilots

of the First pursuit group, Selridge field, Michigan, which now is one of the important bases of the general headquarters air force. The First pursuit group had the most glorious record of any air force squadron of the American army in the World war, and the decision to place these marvelous new fighters with the group is considered a signal honor to the pilots who have maintained the traditions of the past. The Seversky fighters have a top speed said to be in the neighborhood of 350 miles an hour, and land, with the aid of efficient flaps, at 70 miles an hour. Their range is said to be 1,500 miles at the best cruising throttle setting.



Predatory war birds: A low-flying attack squadron with Northrop A-17 airplanes. These military machines have been specially designed to attack troops, transport trains, strong points, artillery emplacements, and similar concentrated targets on the ground. Their technique is to fly as low as possible, raking their objective with machine gun fire, bombs, and gas as they swoop over it at 250 miles an hour. They arrive so suddenly and depart so swiftly after striking that there can be no reprisal. The planes each carry pilot and gunner.

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