

Piper J-3C-65 Cub

1942

General History

Lightplane

It has been said that it is impossible to kill yourself while flying a Piper Cub. While this isn't exactly true, it brings to light the fact that Cubs are simple to fly and exceptionally forgiving of mistakes.

Developed from the 1930 Taylor E-2 Cub, Piper's J-2 and J-3 Cubs were basic, honest, small planes. When war seemed imminent, Cubs became the trainers of choice for the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP). Among those who learned to fly in a Cub under the CPT Program were U.S. astronaut John Glenn, America's top ace Richard Bong, and U.S. Navy ace Joe Foss. When the U.S. entered World War II, Cubs flew as liaison craft with the U.S. Army. In the post-war era, well-loved Cubs went back to helping hone the skills of eager flying students, and leisurely cruising rural America. Delightfully simple and fun, when people say "lightplane" they mean "Cub!"

Little Cub Gets into a Fight

Drafted for World War II service, the traditionally chrome yellow Cubs left the factory in Army olive drab. With the military designation L-4 (L stood for Liaison) the Piper Cub, along with similar planes from Aeronca and Taylorcraft, became the Army's "Grasshoppers." The planes earned the name "Grasshopper" because of the ease with which they hopped into the air from a country road or farmer's field. The planes were used for scouting, directing artillery fire and transporting Army commanders. U.S. Generals Eisenhower, Marshall and Patton used Cubs as aerial jeeps.

The enemy soon realized the value of these tiny craft shuttling the front lines and offered special rewards for a pilot or soldier who could bring down a "Grasshopper."

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TEAMWORK!

In this war it's teamwork that counts. We see it everywhere—the Navy cooperating with the Army—Air Force pilots suffering enemy airplanes for the Infantry—civilians in all kinds of work pulling together on the home front.

The Piper Cub "Grasshopper" plane, too, is teaming-up with many branches of the Service. For example, it works with the Artillery—acting as an aerial observation post. When necessary, the observer sends firing coordinates to the battery by radio and the guns drop shells directly on the target. It's this kind of teamwork that is bringing Victory nearer every day.

And when Victory comes, Piper will again serve penicillin America. Then, you can own a smart new Piper Cub plane—a team-mate that will carry you on your business and vacation trips with ease, pleasure, safety and economy.

PIPER Cub
Points the Way to Wings for All Americans

THE BROTHERS VAN DUSEN CO. DIV. Best values for your money of "You, You, Can Fly!" If you also want the full-size Piper models, mention this magazine or send for prospectus—Piper Aircraft Corporation, Dept. PA18, Lock Haven, Penna.

Men, SOUND THEM—"The Construction of a Light Airplane." For distribution write: Supervisor, Audio-Visual Aids, Extension Services, Penna. State College, State College, Penna.

About This Aircraft

This Cub was one of 253 Piper gliders built during World War II. Designated TG-8s (TG stands for Training Glider), the powerless craft had a special elongated nose section, shorter gear and spoilers. The glider could seat three and was used in U.S. glider training programs.

After the war, many of the Army's swifter sailplane-type gliders were snapped up by sportsmen, but there was little demand for the funny little Piper gliders. Many of the TG-8s were easily modified to powered lightplane configuration. This plane's log states that this Cub had the glider serial number of G-31, and was converted to powered aircraft on November 5, 1945.

Flown for just 145 hours through 1956, the Cub was lovingly stored in a barn. It was discovered in 1988 and restored over one year. Evergreen purchased the Cub in 1991. It is more than likely the only glider/powered Cub still in existence.



Specifications

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|-------------------|---|
| Type: | Military Trainer, Liaison, Lightplane |
| First Flight: | Taylor E-2 Cub in September of 1930 |
| Wingspan: | 35 feet 3 inches |
| Length: | 22 feet 5 inches |
| Height: | 6 feet 8 inches |
| Wing Area: | 178.5 square feet |
| Weight, Empty: | 680 pounds |
| Weight, Loaded: | 1,220 pounds |
| Power: | One Continental A-65 65 horsepower engine |
| Capacity: | Two |
| Typical Armament: | None |

Performance

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Cruise Speed: | 73 miles per hour |
| Top Speed: | 87 miles per hour |
| Range: | 220 miles |
| Service Ceiling: | 11,500 feet |