

NAVY'S NEW TORPEDO BOMBER

Many operational squadrons of the Fleet Air Arm have already been equipped with the new "Barracuda" aircraft, which is replacing the famous Swordfish biplane.

The "Barracuda", designed for high level and dive-bombing as well as for torpedo carrying and reconnaissance work, is a high wing monoplane. Cockpits for pilot, observer and air gunner are enclosed instead of open as in the case of the Swordfish.

While landing and taking off from the carrier's deck large flaps are let down and the "Barracuda" looks like a giant vulture hovering. But in the air the aircraft has a trim, business-like appearance.

One of the first squadrons to be equipped with these aircraft is commanded by Lieutenant Commander R.S. Baker-Falkner, D.S.C., R.N., who carried out many test flights on "Barracudas" while they were still in the experimental stage.

His Squadron, formerly equipped with Swordfish, took part in the raids on Kirkenes and Petsamo from the aircraft carrier H.M.S. VICTORIOUS in 1940. The Squadron also took part in offensive sweeps over the French ports, in the invasion of Madagascar, in Malta convoys and several other actions. It has earned four D.S.C.s, one D.S.M. and two Mentions in Despatches.

NAVAL AFFAIRS

NOTE:- Pictures available at L.N.A.