

KAWANISHI H6K5 MAVIS

Role - Flying Boat

Crew - 9 crew, or 8 crew plus 10-18 passengers

Engines - Four Mitsubishi fourteen-cylinder air-cooled radials

Propellers - Three-blade metal propellers

Span - 40m Length - 25.63m Height - 6.27m Max Speed - 179 knots
Range - 2,230 miles

Armament - One flexible 7.7mm machine gun in an open bow position, one flexible 7.7 mm machine gun in a power-operated dorsal turret and one handheld 7.7 mm machine gun in a tail turret

Bomb load - 2x 800 kg torpedoes, or up to 1,000 kg of bombs

The H6K5 was the largest Japanese plane at the start of WWII. They flew between the far reaches of the Japanese empire, but were no match for fighter attacks despite its defensive armament. The Kawanishi was an excellent, well built airplane that was arguably the most advanced flying boat in the world at the start of the war. The H8K Emily was its replacement.

Wartime History - Sunk off [Gavutu Island](#) (Tulagi Seaplane Base) on August 7, 1942 in the air strikes prior to the US Marines landing.

Wreckage - Rests upright nearly completely intact on a sandy, silt covered bottom. The right wing is broken off and sat in front of the plane. The fuselage is in excellent condition, the nose slightly bent, likely from impacting the bottom. The fuselage and tail are intact, with some portions of the outer skin corroded away to allow divers to view inside. The left wing is well preserved. Silt in the area reduces dive visibility.



Depth Range 22 - 30m