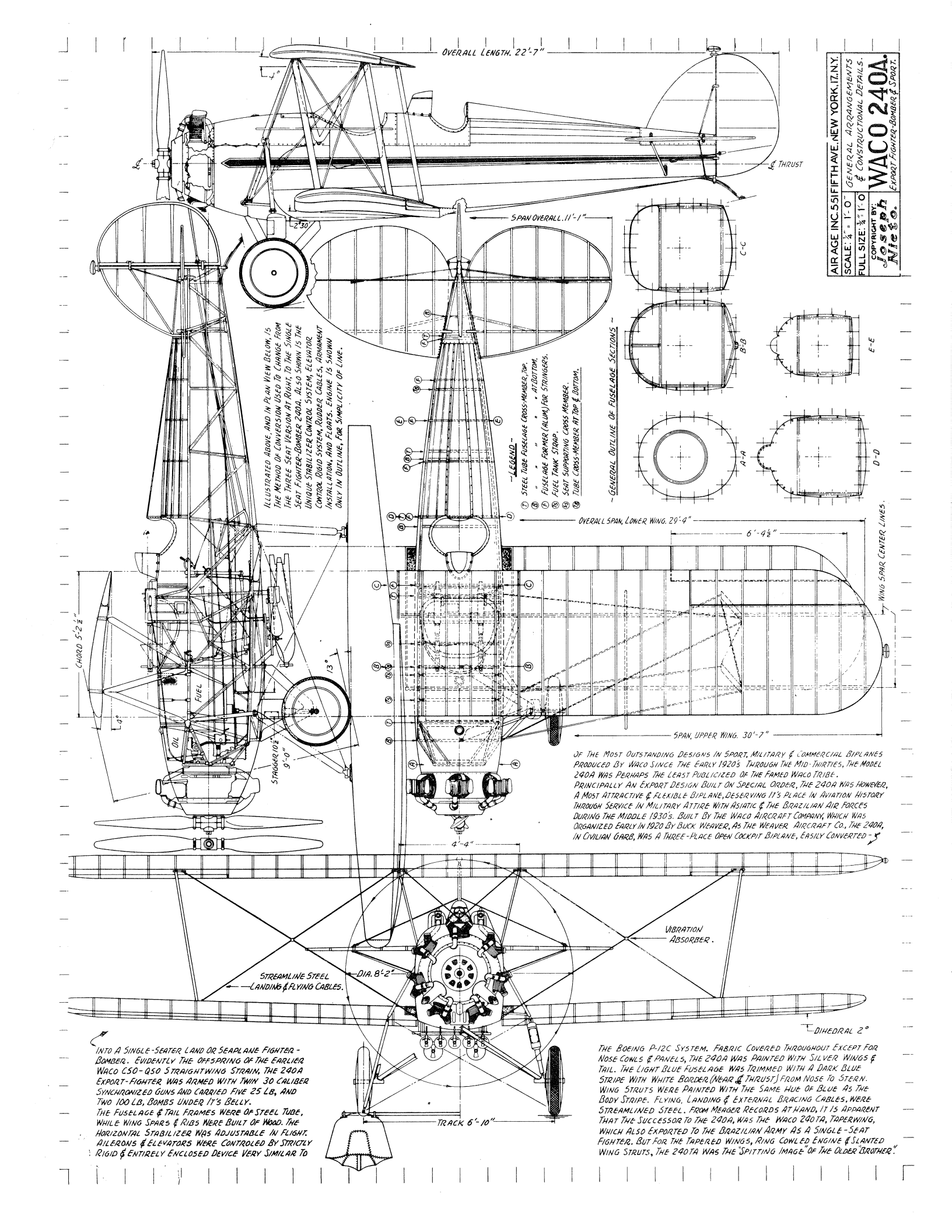

ILLUSTRATED ABOVE AND IN PLAN VIEW BELOW, IS THE METHOD OF CONVERSION USED TO CHANGE FROM THE THREE SEAT VERSION AT RIGHT, TO THE SINGLE SEAT FIGHTER-BOMBER 240A. ALSO SHOWN IS THE UNIQUE STABILIZER CONTROL SYSTEM, ELEVATOR CONTROL RIGID SYSTEM, RUDDER CABLES, ARMAMENT INSTALLATION, AND FLOATS. ENGINE IS SHOWN ONLY IN OUTLINE, FOR SIMPLICITY OF LINE.

OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING DESIGNS IN SPORT, MILITARY & COMMERCIAL BIPLANES PRODUCED BY WACO SINCE THE EARLY 1920'S THROUGH THE MID-THIRTIES, THE MODEL 240A WAS PERHAPS THE LEAST PUBLICIZED OF THE FAMED WACO TRIBE. PRINCIPALLY AN EXPORT DESIGN BUILT ON SPECIAL ORDER, THE 240A WAS HOWEVER, A MOST ATTRACTIVE & FLEXIBLE BIPLANE, DESERVING IT'S PLACE IN AVIATION HISTORY THROUGH SERVICE IN MILITARY ATTIRE WITH ASIATIC & THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCES DURING THE MIDDLE 1930'S. BUILT BY THE WACO AIRCRAFT COMPANY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED EARLY IN 1920 BY BUCK WEAVER, AS THE WEAVER AIRCRAFT CO., THE 240A, IN CIVILIAN GARB, WAS A THREE-PLACE OPEN COCKPIT BIPLANE, EASILY CONVERTED -

INTO A SINGLE-SEATER LAND OR SEAPLANE FIGHTER-BOMBER. EVIDENTLY THE OFFSPRING OF THE EARLIER WACO C50-Q50 STRAIGHTWING STRAIN, THE 240A EXPORT-FIGHTER WAS ARMED WITH TWIN 30 CALIBER SYNCHRONIZED GUNS AND CARRIED FIVE 25 LB, AND TWO 100 LB, BOMBS UNDER IT'S BELLY.
THE FUSELAGE & TAIL FRAMES WERE OF STEEL TUBE, WHILE WING SPARS & RIBS WERE BUILT OF WOOD. THE HORIZONTAL STABILIZER WAS ADJUSTABLE IN FLIGHT. AILERONS & ELEVATORS WERE CONTROLED BY STRICTLY RIGID & ENTIRELY ENCLOSED DEVICE VERY SIMILAR TO THE BOEING P-12C SYSTEM. FABRIC COVERED THROUGHOUT EXCEPT FOR NOSE COWLS & PANELS, THE 240A WAS PAINTED WITH SILVER WINGS & TAIL. THE LIGHT BLUE FUSELAGE WAS TRIMMED WITH A DARK BLUE STRIPE WITH WHITE BORDER (NEAR ℄ THRUST) FROM NOSE TO STERN. WING STRUTS WERE PAINTED WITH THE SAME HUE OF BLUE AS THE BODY STRIPE. FLYING, LANDING & EXTERNAL BRACING CABLES, WERE STREAMLINED STEEL. FROM MEAGER RECORDS AT HAND, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE SUCCESSOR TO THE 240A, WAS THE WACO 240TA, TAPERWING, WHICH ALSO EXPORTED TO THE BRAZILIAN ARMY AS A SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTER. BUT FOR THE TAPERED WINGS, RING COWLED ENGINE & SLANTED WING STRUTS, THE 240TA WAS THE "SPITTING IMAGE" OF THE OLDER "BROTHER".