

Aeronca L-3 "Grasshopper"

The L-3, originally designated O-58, was the military version of the Aeronca Defender. This high-wing, light airplane could operate from small, hastily-built flying fields. It's tandem seating design was adapted from pre-war Chief models.

The Aeronca L-3 was mainly used for training liaison pilots before they moved on to front-line aircraft like the Piper L-4 or the Stinson L-5. Some Aeronca L-3s were shipped to north Africa, and subsequently given to the Free French Forces in the area at the time.

During World War II, Aeronca L-3s joined similar "Grasshoppers" in artillery fire direction, courier service, front-line liaison, and pilot training. However, the L-3 was produced in significantly smaller quantities for the military due to the company's limited manufacturing capacity.