ROAD TO TOKYO

By Lockheed.

This article was released one week before the Japanese capitulation.

REVOLUTIONARY air compressibility flaps, hydraulic aileron booster control, and added power through use of a new super-charger device have increased combat deadliness of the P-38 Lightning, already one of the world's most formidable and versatile warplanes, claims the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, in revealing for the first time full details of the latest "On to Tokyo" model "L" Lightning.

In its new 18th version to surpass the enemy in the changing conditions of war, the famous twin-boom, twin-engine fighter-bomber can carry a bomb-load of 4,000 pounds, 50 per cent. greater than its previous model. Present bomb capacity arms the Lightning with a striking power greater than that of the early Flying Fortress.

Speed of the model "L" has been boosted 6 per cent. The Army permits Lockheed to disclose that the Lightning will fly faster than 425 miles an hour.

Range has been increased by installation of additional fuel tanks within the wings. This exceedingly long fighting range of 1,700 to 1,800 miles made the Lightning the first plane to land in the American invasion of Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. Maximum range with drop tanks is more than 3,000 miles.

Improvement of the Lightning's two turbo superchargers has increased the P-38's war emergency rating and greatly added to the plane's rate of climb.

A never-ending research and improvement programme has kept the Lightning abreast of latest developments in aerodynamics and requirements of aerial combat. The 18th model is almost entirely different ex-

The P-38L was the first Allied plane to land on Leyte and Luzon in the American invasion of the Philippines.