

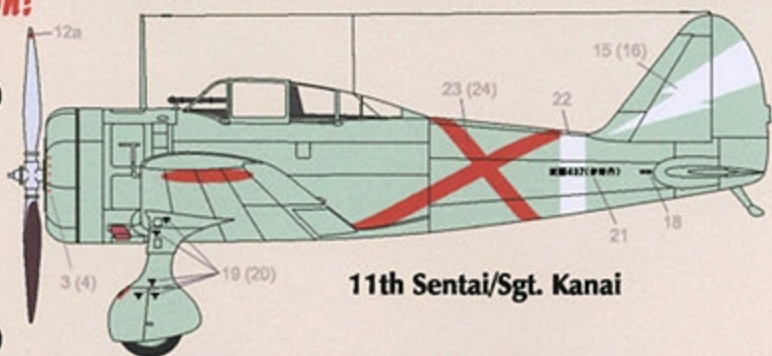
Lifelike Decals

Limited Edition!

48-022

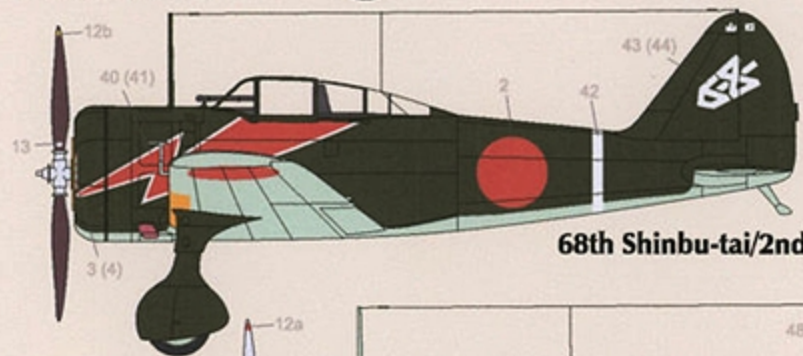
Type 97 Fighters Part 3

A/C #1 (Otsu)



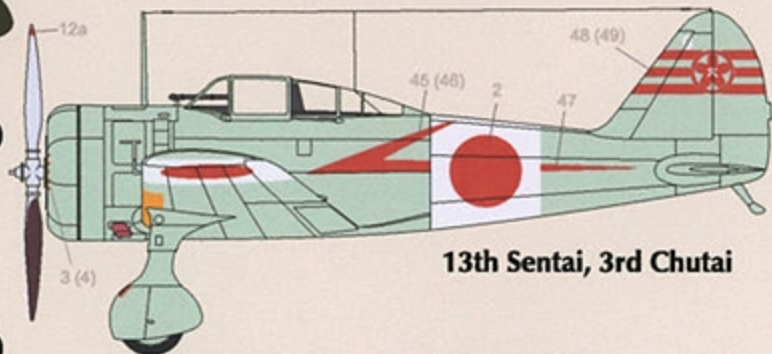
11th Sentai/Sgt. Kanai

A/C #2 (Otsu)



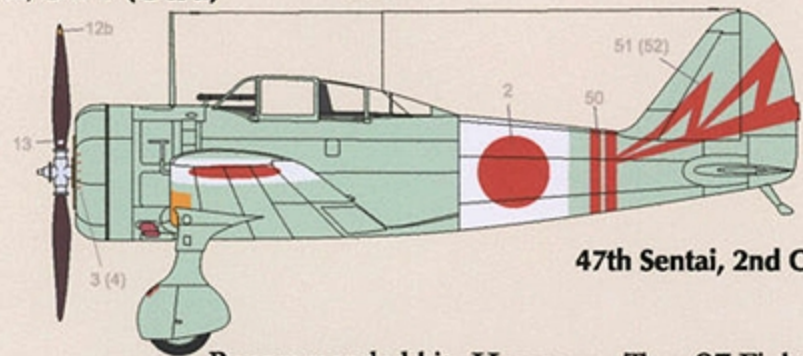
68th Shinbu-tai/2nd Lt. Yamaguchi

A/C #3 (Otsu)

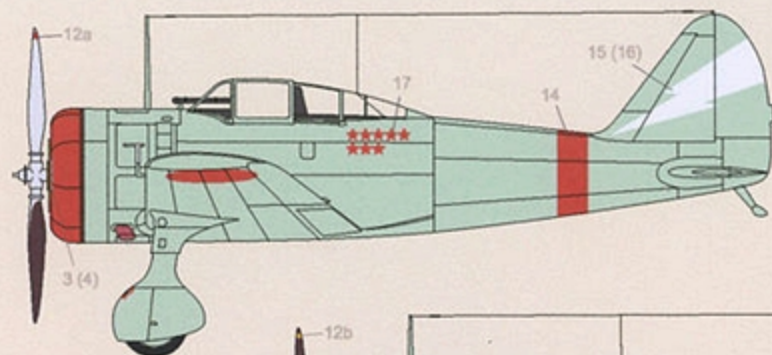


13th Sentai, 3rd Chutai

A/C #4 (Otsu)

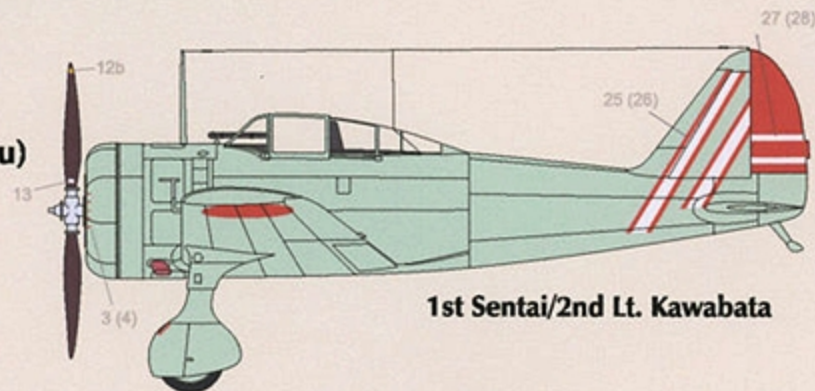


47th Sentai, 2nd Chutai

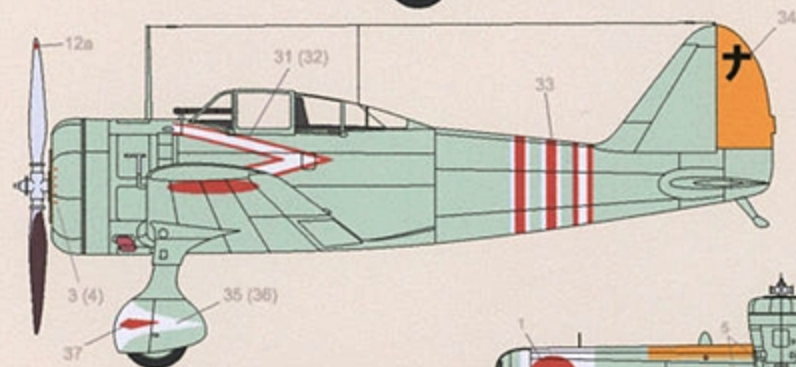


A/C #5 (Otsu)
11th Sentai/
Capt. Shimada

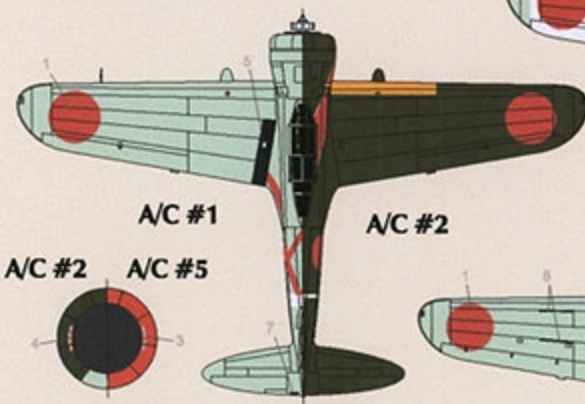
A/C #6 (Otsu)



1st Sentai/2nd Lt. Kawabata



A/C #7 (Otsu)
1st Sentai/
Capt. Inoue

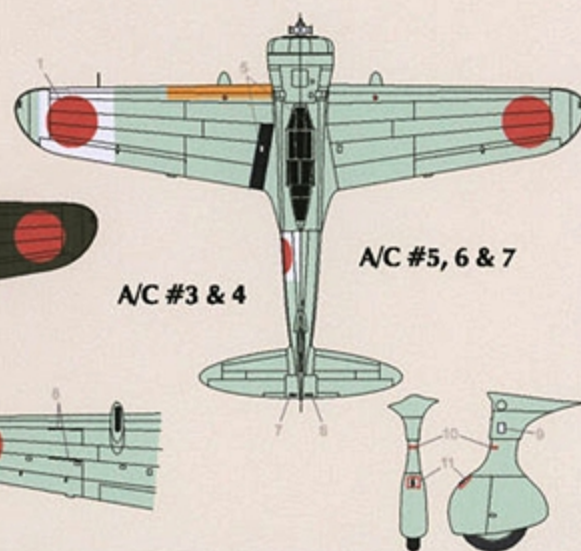


A/C #1

A/C #2

A/C #2

A/C #5



A/C #3 & 4

A/C #5, 6 & 7

Recommended kit: Hasegawa Type 97 Fighter

(A total of 7 A/C are featured herein!)

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.
Fax: +81-3-5680-6733, e-mail: lifelike@eos.ocn.ne.jp
<http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/>

48-022

A/C #1 Ki-27 Otsu (s/n 326) flown by Sgt. Moritugu Kanai, 11th Sentai, 1st Chutai, Nanking/China, 1940.

The only photo of this A/C is shown in ref. 1, and (though somewhat overexposed) shows two crossing red diagonal bands on the fuselage. This A/C is one the donation A/C from Isetan (Japanese Department Store still existing), and shows its donation number with donator's name in parenthesis. One illustration in a website shows one of these diagonal bands as yellow, but this is obviously a misinterpretation due to over-exposed nature of the photo, as the Hinomaru on the upper left wing is of the same tone. Like Capt. Shimada's A/C (A/C #4) this plane might have carried some red star kill marks on the left side, but there is no photographic evidence.

Sgt. Kanai (as the wingman of W.O. Shinohara) was an ace (score 7) already in the Nomonhan Incident. He moved to the 25th Sentai on Sept. 1943, and continued to fight the Pacific War, finally riding a Hayate in 1945 (A/C #4 of our decal 48-014), and lived through the war as 1st Lt. with a score of 26.

A/C #2 Ki-27 Otsu flown by 2nd Lt. Ichi Yamaguchi, Leader of the 68th Shinbu-tai, Tenryu AB/Shizuoka Pref., March 30, 1945.

This is probably one of the gaudiest marking ever applied to Ki-27. Photo of this A/C are shown in ref. 2, and show the full details of the left side. Probably the same marking is applied on the right side also. White outline of Hinomaru is covered with the dark green color to reduce visibility. Though not clearly photographed, the landing gear cover was probably painted dark green also. The numeral 6 and 8 on the tail denotes the 68th Shinbu-tai, and above it was applied the pilot's name. Please paint the yellow identification bands on leading edge of wings.

The 68th Shinbu-tai was formed on March 23, 1945 by Hitachi Fighter Training Air Division, and consisted of 12 Ki-27s. On 30th it moved from Maewatari AB to Kakogawa AB via Tenryu, and then moved to Chiran on April 5th via Ashiya AB. 2nd Lt. Yamaguchi perished in the Special Attack on April 9th against US Task Force near Okinawa.

A/C #3 Ki-27 Otsu of 13th Sentai, 3rd Chutai, Taisho AB in Osaka Pref., summer 1942.

The photo of this A/C is shown in ref. 3. 13th Sentai was then engaged in the Home Defense Duties, and all Hinomaru was on white bands, over which the red arrow mark (inherited from its former unit, 102nd Independent Chutai) was applied. On the tail is the new Sentai emblem, which is symbolizing the cherry blossom with white 大 (*dai*) (first Japanese character of Taisho AB) in the center. As we forgot to make 大 white, if possible, please put white base (from some white decal) before applying mark 48/49. The three horizontal lines denote 3rd Chutai. We also forgot to include the small white 9 mark above this band. Please paint white bands of Hinomaru.

13th Sentai used Ki-27 for a rather short period, and then switched to Ki-45 Toryu on August 1942, and moved to SWPA.

A/C #4 Ki-27 Otsu of 47th Sentai 2nd Chutai, Narimasu AB in Tokyo Pref., 1944.

The marking of this A/C is shown by the three photos in ref. 4 (original photos by Mr. Mannosuke Toda), in which this liaison A/C collided with a Ki-44 Shoki of the same Chutai. Sentai emblem on the tail and two fuselage bands are red, denoting the 2nd Chutai. Please paint white bands of Hinomaru. Strangely there is no mention of 47th Sentai Ki-27 in ref. 3.

A/C #5 Ki-27 Otsu flown by Capt. Kenji Shimada, leader of 11th Sentai 1st Chutai, Manchuria, May-June, 1939.

The photos of this A/C are shown in ref. 1 and 5, and its illustration in ref. 6. The white lightning bolt on the tail denotes 1st Chutai, and a broad red fuselage band and red nose were applied. The 8 kill marks is Capt. Shimada's final score in the 1st Nomonhan Incident, and in the 2nd Incident he added further 27 victories, but was missing in action on September 15, 1939.

A/C #6 Ki-27 Otsu flown by 2nd Lt. Kawabata of 1st Sentai 2nd Chutai, Harbin/China, January 1941.

Regrettably we do not know the photo of this A/C, but its illustration is shown in ref. 7, and its diagonal bands on vertical as well as horizontal tail plane are rather unique among the A/C of 1st Sentai. The red rudder denotes 2nd Chutai, but contrary to Lt. Koyanagi's A/C, this one does not carry any Katakana there.

According to the caption of ref. 7 by Mr. Izawa, this A/C four-landed in January 1941 near Acheng. Regrettably we do not have any information on the career of 2nd Lt. Kawabata.

A/C #7 Ki-27 Otsu flown by Capt. Shigetoshi Inoue, leader of 1st Sentai, 1st Chutai, Nomonhan/China, Sept. 1939.

With the three photographs in ref. 3 as well as further 2 photo in ref. 5, full right side view of this A/C is established, and another photo in ref. 3 of the flight leader's A/C show that the chevron below the cockpit is also applied on the left side. The yellow rudder denotes 1st Chutai, and "ナ" (*na*) was painted on it in black. The diagonal band (red with white outline) is also applied on the upper wing to denote the leader A/C. Please put some cuts and trims in applying marks 35 and 36 to the landing gear cover. This A/C is said to be s/n 459 in ref. 7.

Capt. Inoue served as the leader of 1st Chutai 1st Sentai (August 1939-June 1940), 103rd Independent Chutai, 2nd Chutai of 4th Sentai (April-June 1942), and then Commander of 77th Sentai (April-August 1944).

References

- (1) Aero Album vol. 14 (Summer, 1971) (Aero Publishing)
- (2) Model Art Extra #451, IJAAF Special Attach Units (K. Osuo, Model Art, 1995)
- (3) Famous A/C of the World, #29, Army Type 97 Fighter (Bunrindo, July 1991).
- (4) Aircam #20, Nakajima Ki-27A,B (Arco Publishing, 1970)
- (5) Imperial Japanese Army Fighter Units (Hata & Izawa, Kantousha, 1984)
- (6) Koku-Fan Illustrated #42, Japanese Imperial Army & Navy Aircraft color, marking (Bunrindo, 1988)
- (7) Koku Jouhou (Japanese magazine), June 1970.