

AeroMaster

48-413

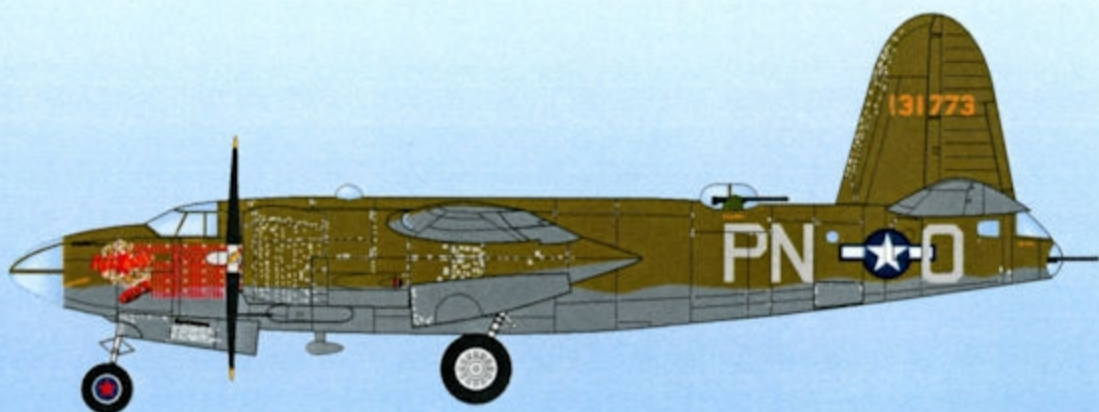
Murderous Marauders

part 1

FLAK-BAIT

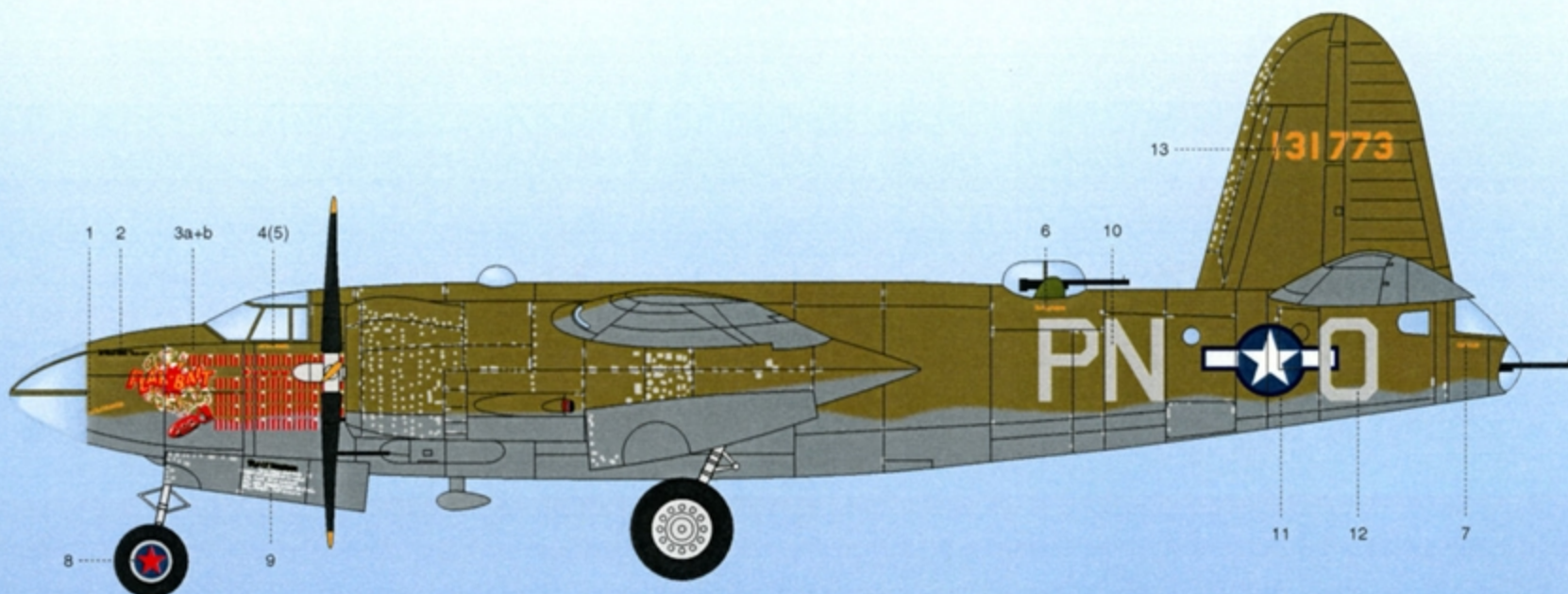


**MISSION
BELLE**

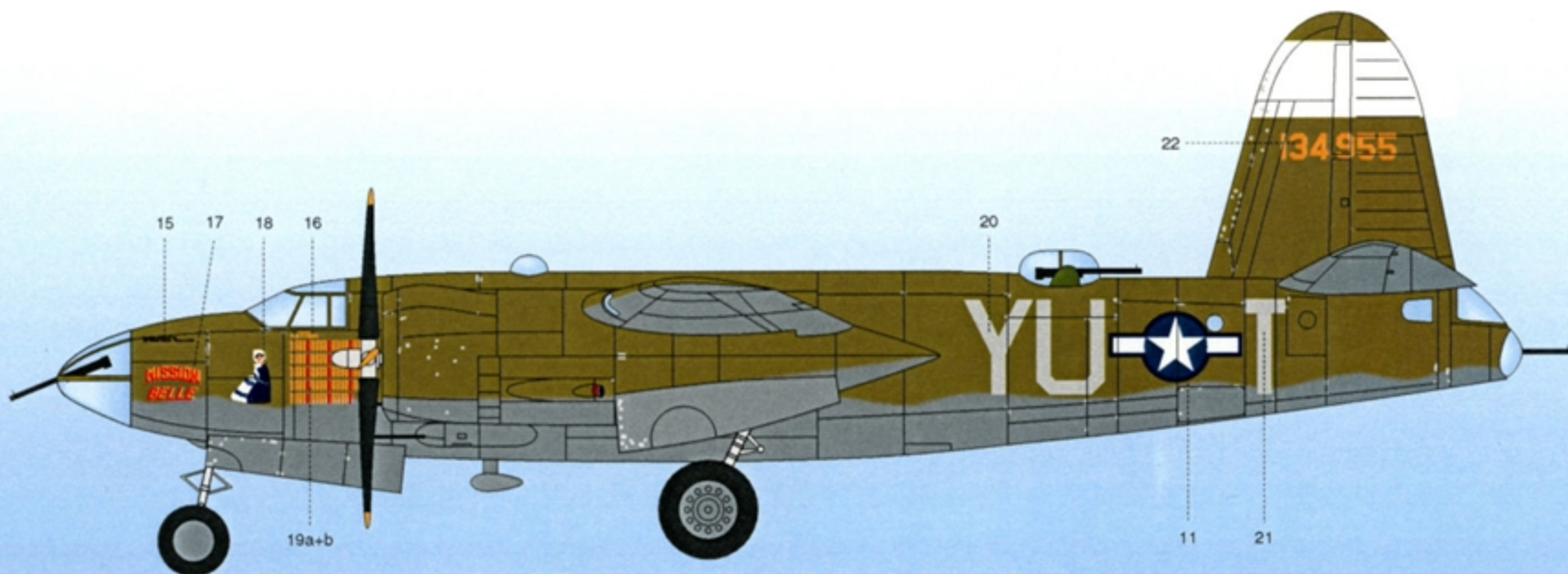


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Murderous Marauders, Pt. 1



Appropriately named "Flak Bait" for more than 1000 hits received from enemy anti-aircraft fire, this historically significant B-26B-25-MA of the 322 BS "The Annihilators" (449 BS) survived 202 missions — the most for any American warplane. It wears an extremely patchy, weathered scheme of standard Olive Drab/Neutral Gray with considerable aluminum chipping. Wheel hubs appear to be dirty aluminum. Note fresh insignia blue in place of the earlier red national marking outline. The nose section of "Flak Bait" survives as a fitting tribute to all 9th Air Force aircrews in the National Air & Space Museum, Washington, DC. Note the "pack gun" installation.



Christened "Mission Belle," this B-26C-15-MO of the 455 BS was the second 323 BG machine to achieve 100 missions. A true combat veteran, it sports weathered Olive Drab/Neutral Gray camouflage with a white I.D. band across the upper fin & rudder. "Mission Belle's" I.D. band, while supposed to be 30" high, looks, in fact, closer to 36". Note the fresh blue paint replacing the previous red insignia outline and the "pack gun" installation.