

AeroMaster.

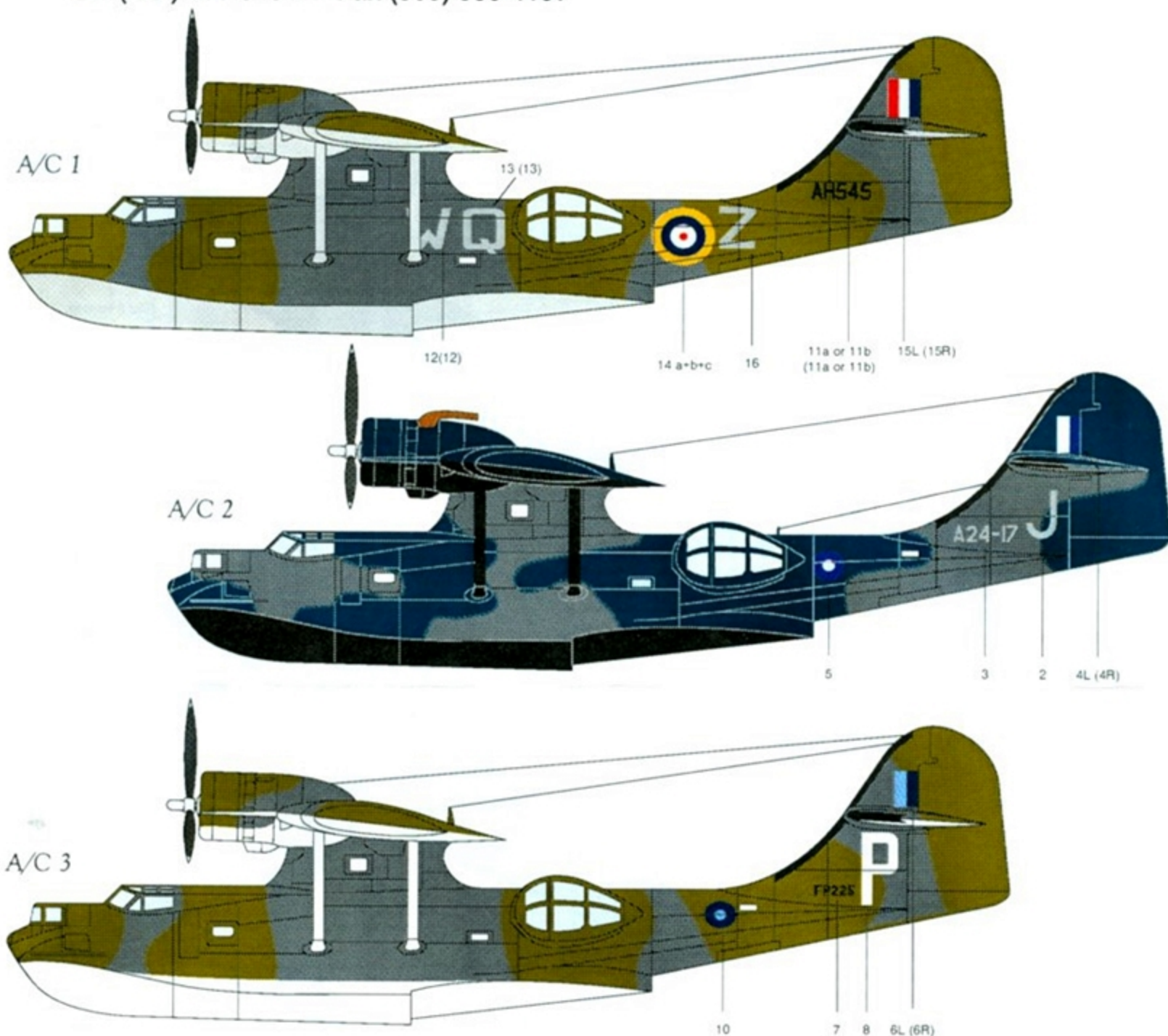
48-234

Flying Cats Pt. I "foreign"



48-234

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A/C 1

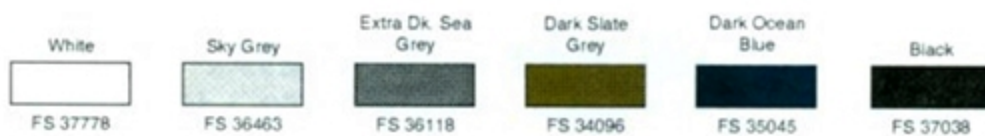
Catalina I (PBY-5), W8406, 209 Squadron, RAF, May 1941. This aircraft, co-piloted by Lt. (jg) Leonard B. "Tuck" Smith, USN, located the German battleship Bismark prior to its sinking. RAF Extra Dark Sea Grey, Dark Slate Grey, and Sky camouflage.

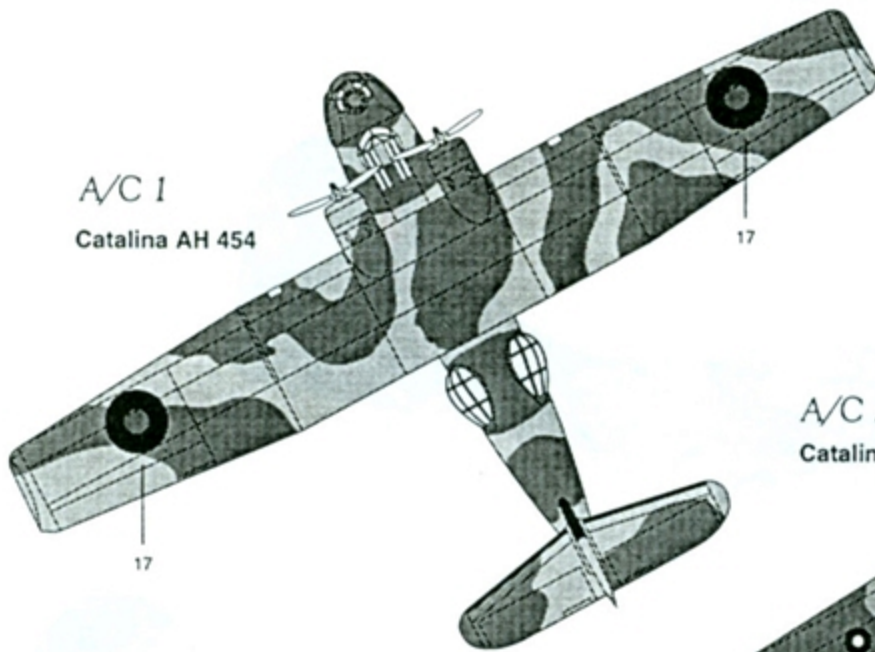
A/C 2

Catalina I, A24-17, No. 3 OTU, Royal Australian Air Force, 1944. Australian Dark Ocean Blue and Extra Dark Sea Grey with Black lower surfaces.

A/C 3

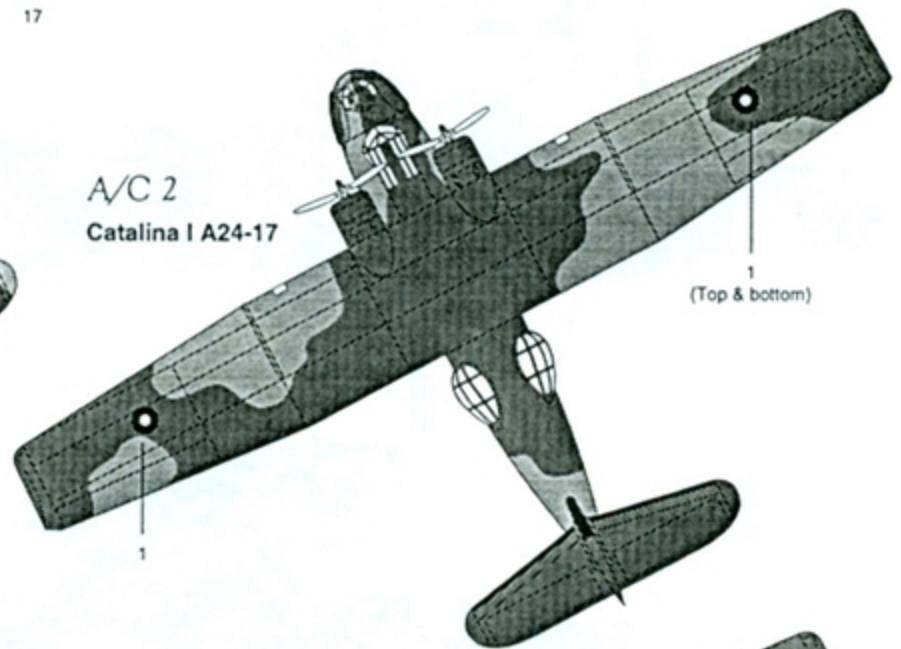
Catalina IB (PBY-5), FP225, 240 Sqdn, (Special Duties Flight) RAF 1944. RAF Extra Dark Sea Grey, Dark Slate Grey, and White camouflage.





A/C 1

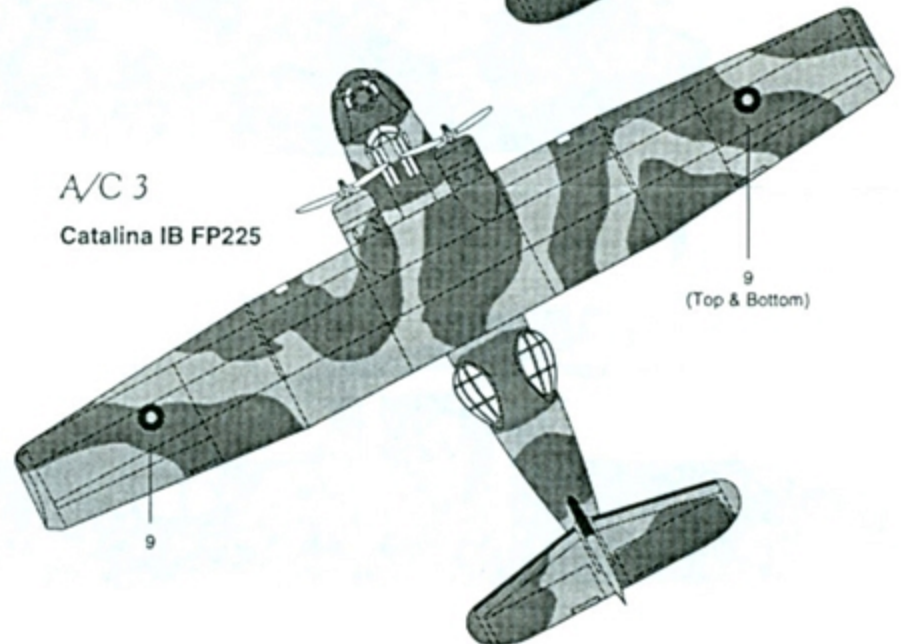
Catalina AH 454



A/C 2

Catalina I A24-17

1
(Top & bottom)



A/C 3

Catalina IB FP225

9
(Top & Bottom)

PBY-5 AH545 made History on May 26 1940. While Flying off Lough Erne in Northern Ireland, AH 545, piloted by P.O. Dennis A briggs and US Navy ENS Leonard B. Smith, was one of the main players in the search and destroy operation that resulted in the sinking of the German Battleship Bismark. After flying more than 6 hours in a South Westerly course, the Bismark was finally sighted at 10:30 am., the rest is history.

After this incident, AH545 served with 209,210 and 119 RAF Squadron, failing to return from operations on July 15, 1942.

Marking and Color Notes: from the photos we received from Mr. Roger S. Wolczek, there are two points we want to bring to your attention. First is that we can not determine if the serial numbers were of the solid or broken style. We provide both. On the port side, the last digit of this serial number may have been applied backwards. It definitely looks strange. If you want to depict it this way, just cut it off and reverse it.

The second one is that we can not tell if the undersurface color was Sky or Sky Gray. Although most maritime A/C were later painted with Sky undersurfaces, some of the early A/C were painted Sky Gray (a very pale Gray similar to FS 36463). This would be our choice. One thing is for sure, heavy paint flaking was present along the flotation line. Please consult your references and arrive at your own conclusion.

References:

1. Scale Aircraft Modeling, Vol. 5, No. 8, May 1983.
2. PBY Catalina in Action, by W.E. Scarborough, Squadron-Signal, 1983.
3. IPMS/USA Quarterly, Vol. 11, No. 2, Winter 1975.
4. Flying Cats, The Catalina Aircraft in World War II. Hendrie, Andrew.
5. Aircraft Camouflage and Markings 1907-1954. Robertson, Bruce.
6. The Royal Air Force in Pictures. Stewart, Major Oliver.

We appreciate the invaluable help given to us by RAF Sqdn. Leader IM Coleman and Roger S. Wolczek, in the preparation of this sheet, specially for references of AH545.

Suggested Kit:

Monogram PBY-5

If you have suggestions for future subject matter, AeroMaster would like to hear from you. Our goal is to provide high quality, well researched decals of unusual and interesting subjects. We value our customers' inputs, so if you have specific suggestions or photographs of unusual subject matter which you would be willing to share, please contact:

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