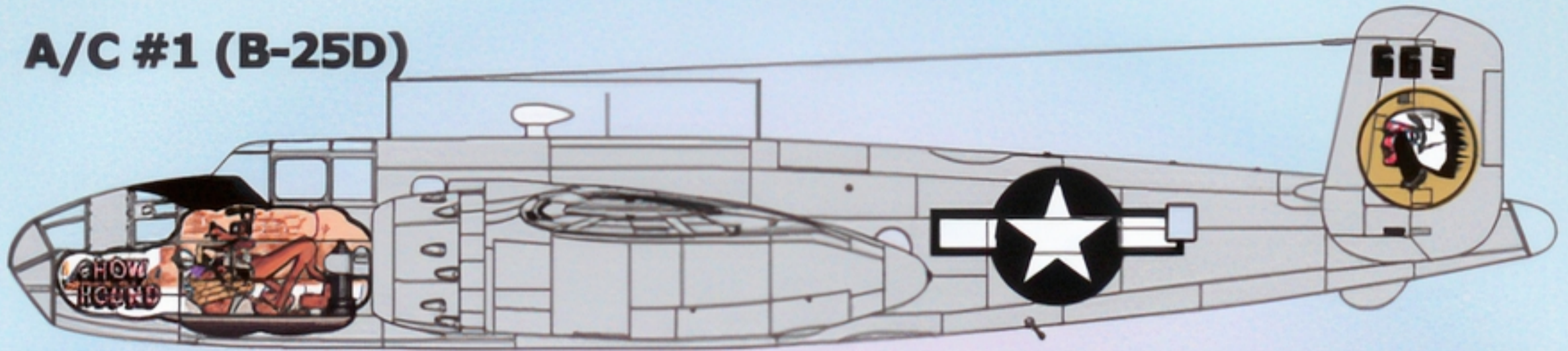


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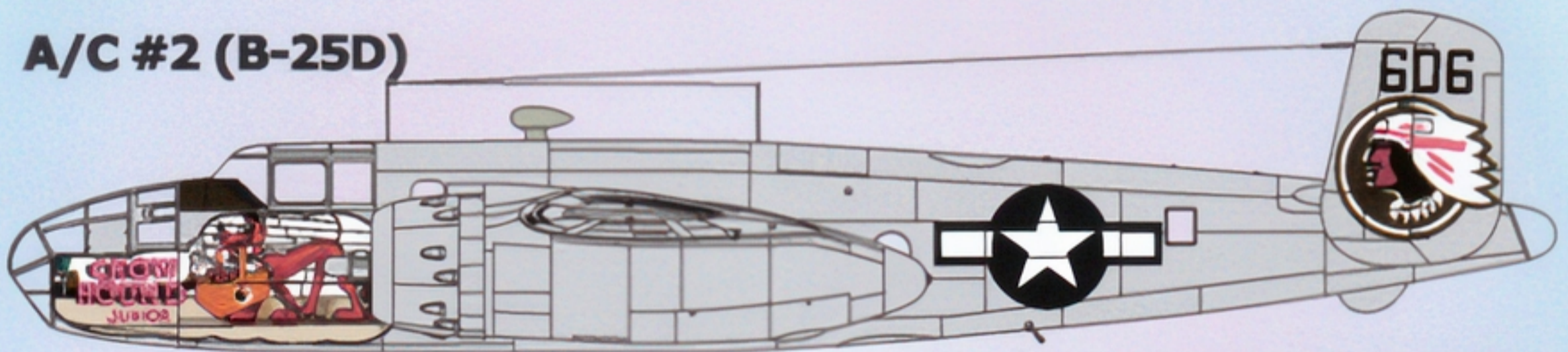
North American B-25 Mitchell Pt.4

A/C #1 (B-25D)



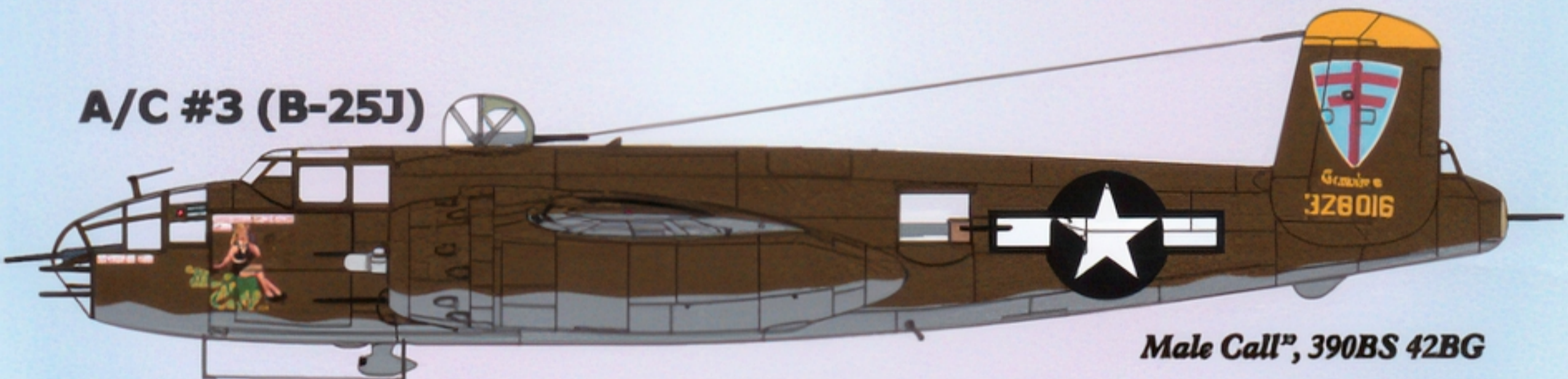
"Chow Hound", "fat cat" of 345BG

A/C #2 (B-25D)



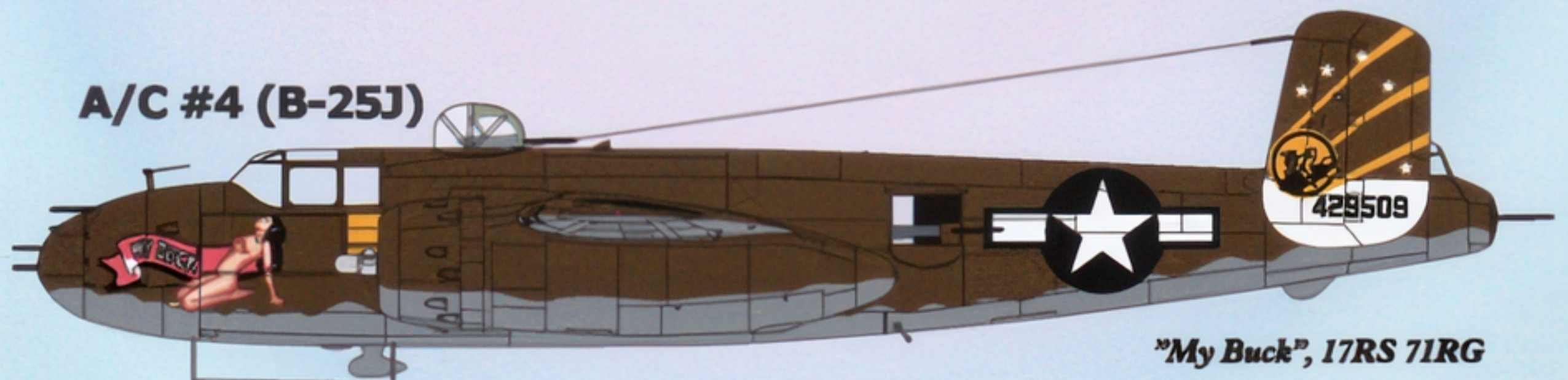
"Chow Hound Junior", "fat cat" of 345BG

A/C #3 (B-25J)



"Male Call", 390BS 42BG

A/C #4 (B-25J)



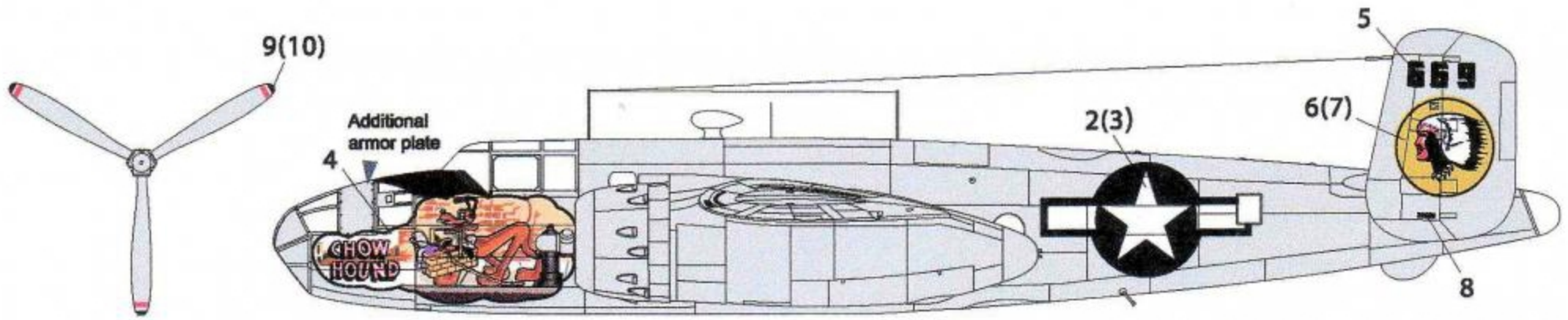
"My Buck", 17RS 71RG

Recommended kit: Airfix B-25C/D
Hasegawa B-25J

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

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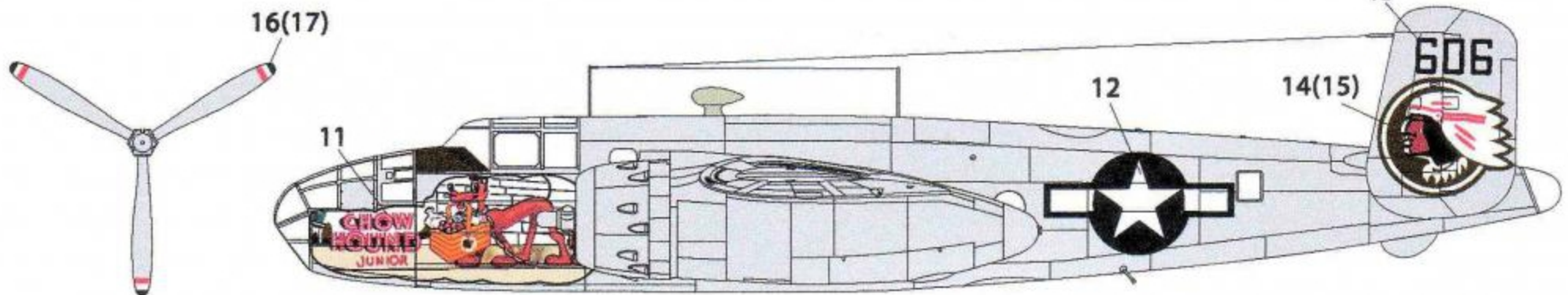


A/C #1
B-25D-15-NC, 41-30669, "Chow Hound," "fat cat" of 345th BG, Biak Island, Philippines, December 1944.

This historic ship was originally named "Tondelayo", the most famous 500th BS B-25 for her miraculous return from a 75-minute running battle against 50 Zeros, while returning from an unescorted three-ship attack on Rabaul on October 18, 1943 (two other B-25s were shot down). "Tondelayo" was so severely shot up that she was out of action for about six months for extensive repairs. She flew more missions after returning to 500th BS in May of 1944, but was retired from combat duties in the fall of 1944

when 500th BS transitioned to the B-25J. She was then stripped of all guns, combat equipment and camouflage, and became a "fat cat" (transporting personnel, equipment, and rations from Brisbane to frontline bases), and given the new name of "Chow Hound". In November 1944 her maintenance duties were assigned to the 501st BS, but served entirely at the behest of 345th BG HQ. One color and one b/w photo of "Chow Hound" are shown in ref. 1-3, and Mr. Mudric sent us more color and b/w photos. All these photos show the details of nose art on the left side, but there is no photo to show its right side, usually an indicator that no special markings or art were present. Wings and fuselage insignias are 50" roundel with

white bars with blue outline. There is a small "30669" below the type I Indian emblem. Propellers are NMF with no stencils, and propeller tip is adorned with three color bands. The anti-glare is painted in black, and some of the clear panels on the nose are overpainted with aluminum dope. When modeling this a/c, please remove all guns, and cover the opening for the top and bottom turrets. "Chow Hound" was lost on March 30, 1945, when she crashed into a beach off Catanduanes Island after losing navigational direction due to a storm. Though some were injured, all the crew were saved. "Chow Hound" was damaged beyond repair, however, and its role of "fat cat" was immediately taken over by "Chow Hound Junior" (A/C #2).

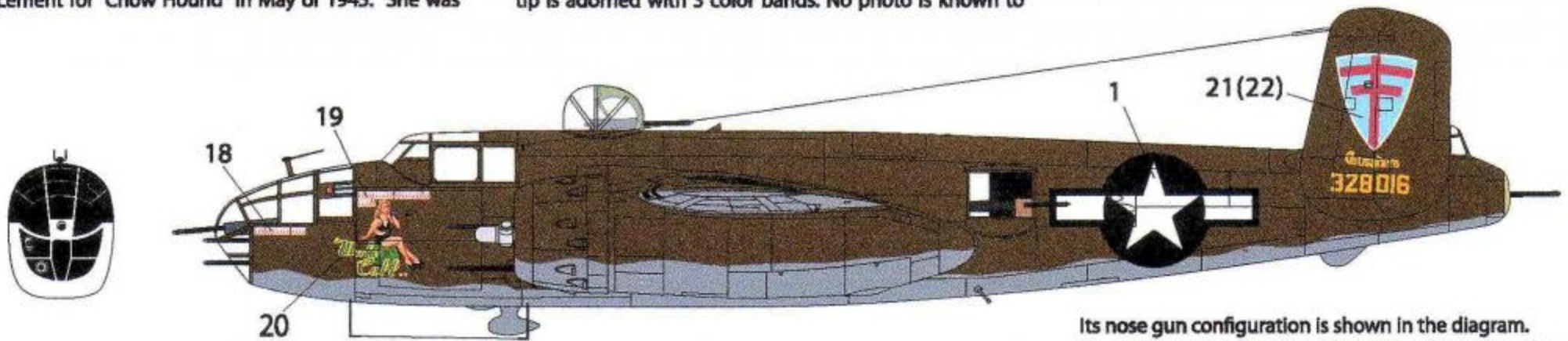


A/C #2
B-25D-15-NC, 41-30606, "Chow Hound Junior," "fat cat" of 345th BG, Clark Field, Philippines, June 1945.

Reference 1 shows that "Chow Hound Junior" was assigned to 501st BS as "fat cat" of 345th BG as replacement for "Chow Hound" in May of 1945. She was

pulled from service with the unit in July of 1945. Her prior name or combat career are not shown in any references, but we found an in-flight photo of this a/c with 22nd BG B-26s. Probably she came from the 22nd BG. Two clear color photos are shown in ref. 1 and 4-7. As with "Chow Hound", propellers are NMF without stencils, and its tip is adorned with 3 color bands. No photo is known to

show its right nose, so probably no such nose art on its right side. Anti-glare is usual OD, and some clear nose panels are overpainted in aluminum dope. Unlike "Chow Hound", "Chow Hound Junior" has 45" roundel (with white bars and blue outline) on fuselage sides. Again, for an accurate model please remove all guns, and fair over the top and bottom turret holes.

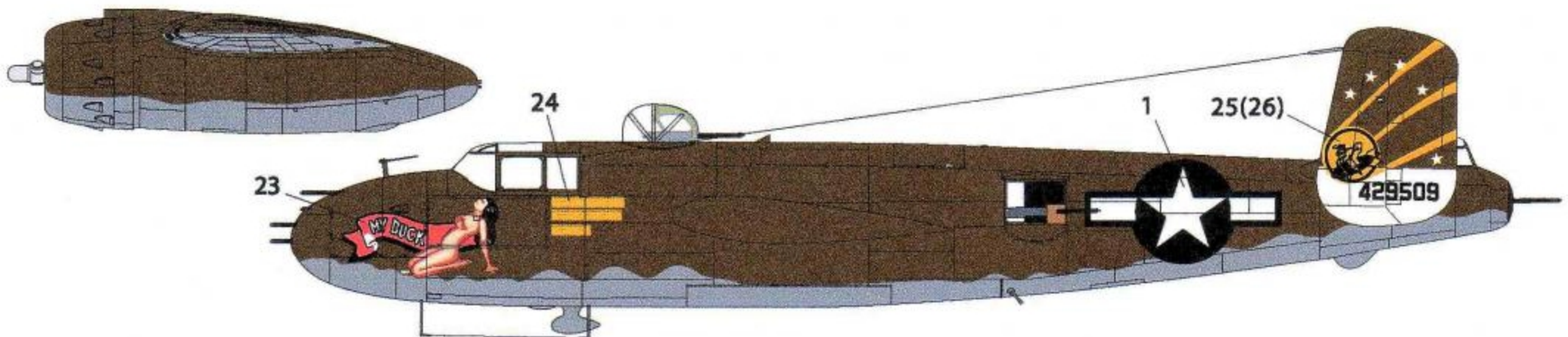


A/C #3
B-25J-5-NC, probably 43-28016, "Male Call", 390th BS, 42nd BG, Sansapor, New Guinea, 1945.

Three b/w photos (including close-up of the nose art) are

shown in ref. 2 and 8, and color illustration is shown in ref. 2. But the colors used in this illustration are not in agreement with the color photo in ref. 9. The nose art was painted by Lt. Ken Miller, artist and pilot of 100th BS. Fuselage side guns are installed without reinforcing plates.

Its nose gun configuration is shown in the diagram. There is a color photo of 42nd BG B-25Js flying over the sea in ref. 8, and though the colors are somewhat blurred, it shows the "Crusaders" emblem consists of red and light blue. There are a few variations in "CRUSADERS" lettering below the emblem, and we followed the example of 43-28126 in ref. 10.



A/C #4
B-25J-20-NC, 44-29509, "My Buck", 17th RS, 71st RG, Lingayen, Philippines, February to July 1945.

As most of 17th RS B-25 C and D models (including the

famous "Mitch the Witch", "Charming Lady", or "Little Joe" and "Stinky Jo") were modified to install waist guns (with fairing to the gun window) and tail guns (with "roof") while retaining rear top turret. As these modified guns are quite similar in shape to J-model, and are difficult to make from

existing C/D kits (including the Airfix kit); we chose the J model "My Buck". Four Photos of this a/c are shown in ref. 2 and 8, and Mr. Mudric gave us 5 more photos. No fuselage side guns are fitted. As we could not find a color photo of it, we referred to the color illustration in ref. 8 for these details.

B-25 wore several styles of national insignia during WWII, not all readily available as decals.

(A) New B-25 aircraft wore the following national insignia.

On wings (on upper left wing and lower right wing)

*beginning of Mitchell production to mid-production of B-25G-----50" roundel without white bar

*later part of B-25G production-----45" roundel with white bar and blue outline

*from B-25H to close of production-----50" roundel with white bar and blue outline

On fuselage

*beginning of Mitchell production to mid-production of B-25G -----45" roundel without white bar

*later part of B-25G production -----45" roundel with white bar and blue outline

*B-25H-----50" roundel with white bar and blue outline

*from B-25H to close of production -----50" roundel with white bar and blue outline

(note, however, that its position is shifted 6" forward)

(45" is 15.3mm and 50" is 17.0mm in 1/72 scale)

(B) Markings application in frontline units

*In North Africa, where the USAAF and RAF operated jointly, at the RAF's request some B-25s had national insignia on both wings (top and bottom) and the RAF fin-flash on tail (usually on both sides) to prevent friendly fire.

*In spite of the change of national insignia at the production plant, frontline units did not always follow suit, and some B-25 a/c had a white bar (and blue outline) simply added to the original roundel. Typical examples are "Chow Hound" and "Chow Hound Junior" (both B-25D and hack of 345th BG). The former changed its fuselage national insignia to 50" roundel with bar and blue outline, but the latter had the bar and blue outline applied to the original 45" roundel.