

Lifelike Decals

Limited Edition!

32-014R

North American P-51 Mustang Pt. 1



Capt. John Voll,
308FS/31FG

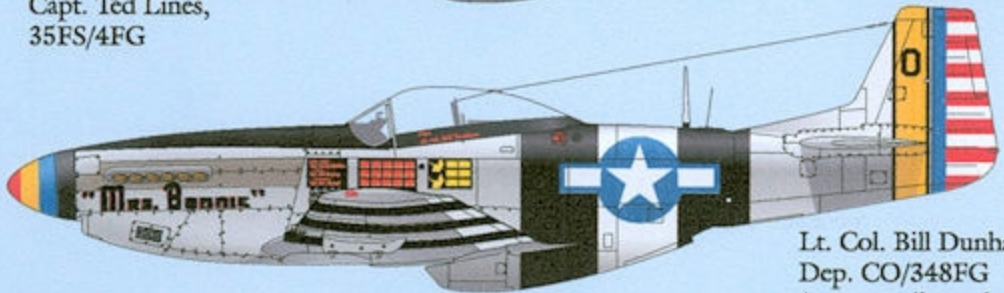
(dual kill marks)



Capt. R. Wetmore,
370FS/359FG



Capt. Ted Lines,
35FS/4FG



Lt. Col. Bill Dunham,
Dep. CO/348FG
(correct tail number)

© 2018/12

Recommended kit: Tamiya or Revell P-51D Mustang
Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

Fax: 0743-73-5526, e-mail: lifelike_d@kcn.jp
<http://lifelikedecals.sakura.nc.jp>

32-014R

North American P-51 Mustang Pt. 1

A/C #1

P-51D-15-NA flown by Capt. John Voll of 308FS/31FG, San Severo AB/Italy, late November 1944.

This is one of the best known P-51D. It is finished in the NMF overall with OD anti-glare panel, and flamboyant marking of 31st FG on its wings and tails. Interestingly s/n is partially seen through the red stripes. Four photographs of this A/C are known (ref. 1-5), but noteworthy are the rare shot of this A/C from down under (showing how the red stripes on lower horizontal tail are applied) in ref. 3, and the close-up photo of the nose art in ref. 4. In addition to these, another photo of his B model with "LOVELY LILA" on the right side is shown on the website (ref. 6), and it is said that quite similar style name was also applied to D model. This name was for C/C S/Sgt. R. J. Hendery's wife. Capt. Voll was the highest scoring American ace



in the MTO. All the photos of his D model shows 21 kill marks, which is his final score. He gained the last 4 kills during a fierce air battle (one

against 12 Luftwaffe fighters) on November 16, 1944, and he returned to States in December. So these photos might be the memorial shots for his outstanding achievement.

A/C #2

P-51D-10-NA flown by Capt. Raymond Wetmore of 370FS/359FG, East Wretham/England, February to March 1945

The last mount of Capt. Wetmore, Daddy's Girl, is a well-known A/C, but the marking featured here is the transitional state when the white paint of the national marking is re-applied and kill marks on the canopy is re-located to fuselage side. The photo of this state is shown originally in ref. 7 and recently in ref. 8. Detail of the kill marks on the canopy frame is shown in ref. 1 & 9. In this re-painting the stencil type s/n was also changed to solid type, and it seems that the code letters were outlined in red as the edge of letters became less clear, and later color photo (ref. 7)



outline. These photos show tonal change of "Daddy's Girl". At the featured stage the letters seem to be slightly darker than national insignia, so might be yellow as illustrated in ref. 8. When the marking change is finished, the letters also seems to be changed to white (ref. 7, 8 and 9).

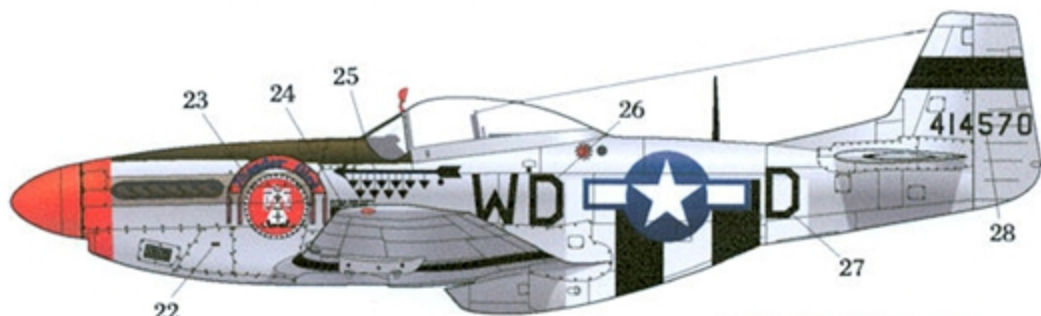
See the color photo in ref. 8 for the colors of green on nose and dark blue on the rudder. Its antenna is painted in black.

Capt. Wetmore scored 21 1/4 kills in WWII, including one Me 163, but was killed in a flying accident with an F-86 on February 14th, 1951.

A/C #3

P-51D-10-NA flown by Capt. Ted Lines of 335FS/4FG, Debden/England, September to November 1944.

The overall view of this little known A/C flown by Capt. Lines is shown in ref. 10, and his kill mark style is quite unique. He used "Thunderbird" (the god of Navaho Indians) as his personal mark from his P-51B days (color photo in ref. 11). The details of this personal marking on his D model are shown in ref. 1, 10 & 12. The letter "Thunderbird" in this mark seems to be the same light blue as his B-model, but colors of other details are our best guess. The nose and spinner is 4th FG red, and there is small "4570" at the top of landing gear cover. It is fitted with one rear view mirror (probably red) on the wind shield, but lacks shroud cover of the exhaust. Antenna is painted in black, and invasion stripes remain on



lower fuselage only.

Capt. Lines joined 4th FG in April 1944, and shot down 10 enemy A/C in just 5 months. But his final 3 victories in October were never officially credited. After finishing his tour of duty, he was assigned to 70th Replacement Depot, and retired from USAF after the war. His credit is 10 kills.



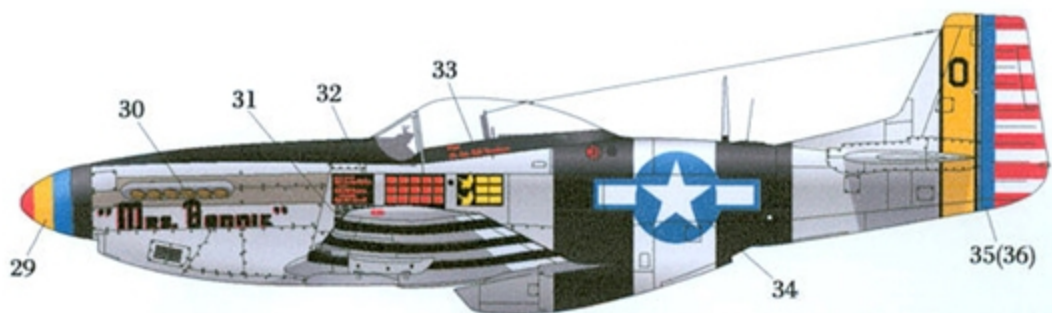
A/C #4

P-51K-10-NT (s/n44-12017) flown by Lt. Col. Bill Dunham, Deputy CO/348FG, Ie Shima/Okinawa, August 1945.

This is a very famous A/C, and a total 8 photos (including one color photo) are shown in ref. 13-20. This A/C is originally a K-model with Aero Products propeller (photo in ref. 15-17), but it was later changed to Hamilton Standard propeller.

Due to the mistake in the illustration in ref. 15 and 18, its A/C code number has always been erroneously shown as "00", but close check of the position and existence/non-existence of "0" against rudder red stripes definitely shows that only ONE "0" is applied. Single "0" is finally confirmed by the left side overall photo of this A/C (while stationed in Japan in September 1945) once shown on e-Bay in 2017.

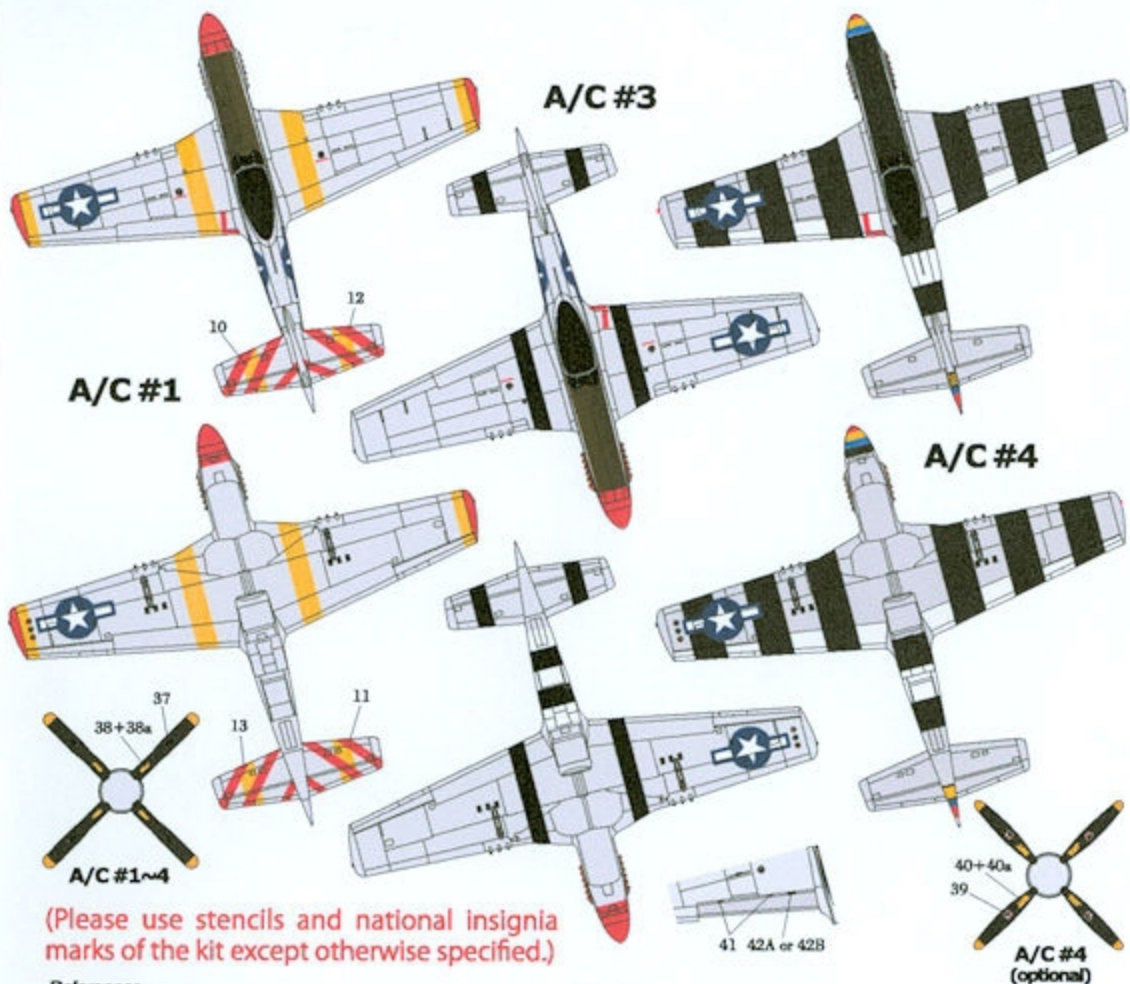
Also noteworthy are the red shadow on "Mrs.



Bonnie" (ref. 14, 15 & 20), light blue color of fuselage national insignia and pink color on exhaust cover (color photo in ref. 13). The color of mission marks and ships sinking mark is not known, and might be gray either. Another photo once shown on e-Bay in 2012 clearly shows that the area between two black fuselage bands and

ailerons/flaps are painted in white. Canopy frame and anti-glare seems to be painted in black.

Lt. Col. Dunham scored his last kill (16th, Hayate) over southern Japan on August 1st, 1945. He continued service in USAF after the war, ran up to the rank of Brigadier General, and participated in the Vietnam War as Deputy Chief of Staff/ 7th AF. He died on March 3rd, 1990.



(Please use stencils and national insignia marks of the kit except otherwise specified.)

References

- (1) P-51 Mustang Aces (W. Hess & T. Irie, Motorbooks International, 1992)
- (2) Aces, Pilots & Aircrafts of the 9th, 12th & 15th USAAF (D. Weatherill, Kookaburra Technical Publications, 1978).
- (3) In a Now Forgotten Sky, The 31st Fighter Group in WW2 (D. Kuonra, Flying Machines Press, 1997)
- (4) P-51 Mustang Nose Art Gallery (J.M. & D. Campbell, Motorbooks International, 1994).
- (5) Osprey Aircraft of the Aces 7, Mustang Aces of the Ninth & Fifteenth Air Forces & the RAF (Jerry Scutts, Osprey Publishing, 1995).
- (6) <http://www.31stfightergroup.com>
- (7) Mustang & Unicorns-A History of the 359th FG (J. Smith, Pictorial Histories Publishing, 1997)
- (8) Osprey Aviation Elite Units #10, 359th Fighter Group (J. Smith, Osprey Publishing, 2002)
- (9) Aces of the Eighth (Squadron Signal Publications, 1973)
- (10) Kidd Hofer-The Last of the Screwball Aces (T. White, Stardust Studio, 2003)
- (11) Fighter Command—American Fighters in Original WWII Color (J. Ethell, R Sand, Motorbooks International, 1991)
- (12) <http://www.littlefriends.co.uk/>
- (13) WWII War Eagles-Global Air War in Original Color (J. Ethell, W. Bodie, Widewing Publications 1995)
- (14) Kirby's Thunderbolts-the 348th FG in WWII (J. Stanaway, Phalarx Publishing, 1992)
- (15) Kirby's Thunderbolts-the 348th FG in WWII (J. Stanaway, Schiffer Military History, 1997)
- (16) P-51 Mustang in action (Squadron Signal Publications, 1981)
- (17) P-51 Mustang (L. Davis, Squadron Signal Publications, 1995)
- (18) Flying Scoreboards (E. McDowell, Squadron Signal Publications, 1993)
- (19) Osprey Aircraft of the Aces 26-Mustang and Thunderbolt Aces of the Pacific and CBI (Osprey Publishing, 1999)
- (20) Osprey Aircraft of the Aces 61-"Twelve to One" V Fighter Command Aces of the Pacific (Osprey Publishing, 2004)