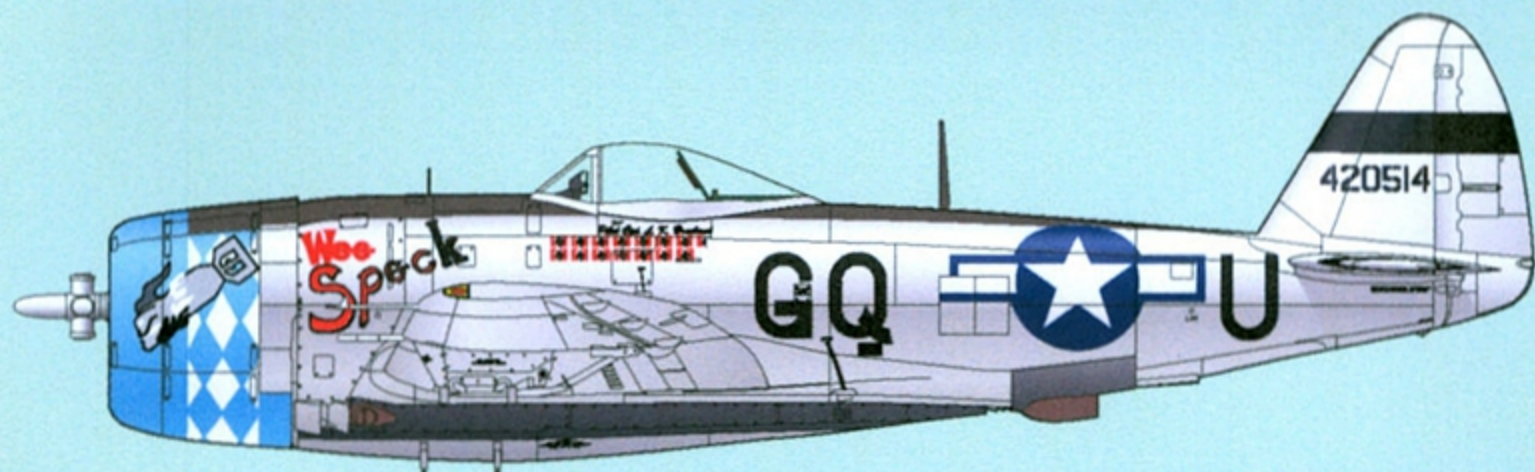


Lifelike Decals

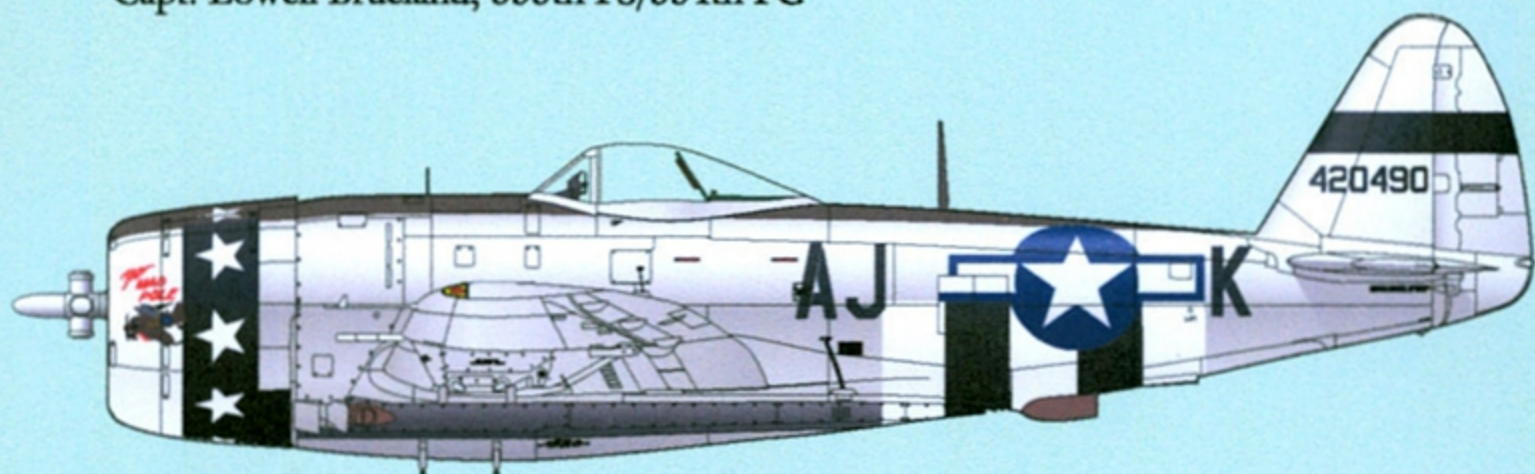
48-014

Republic P-47D Thunderbolt Part 5

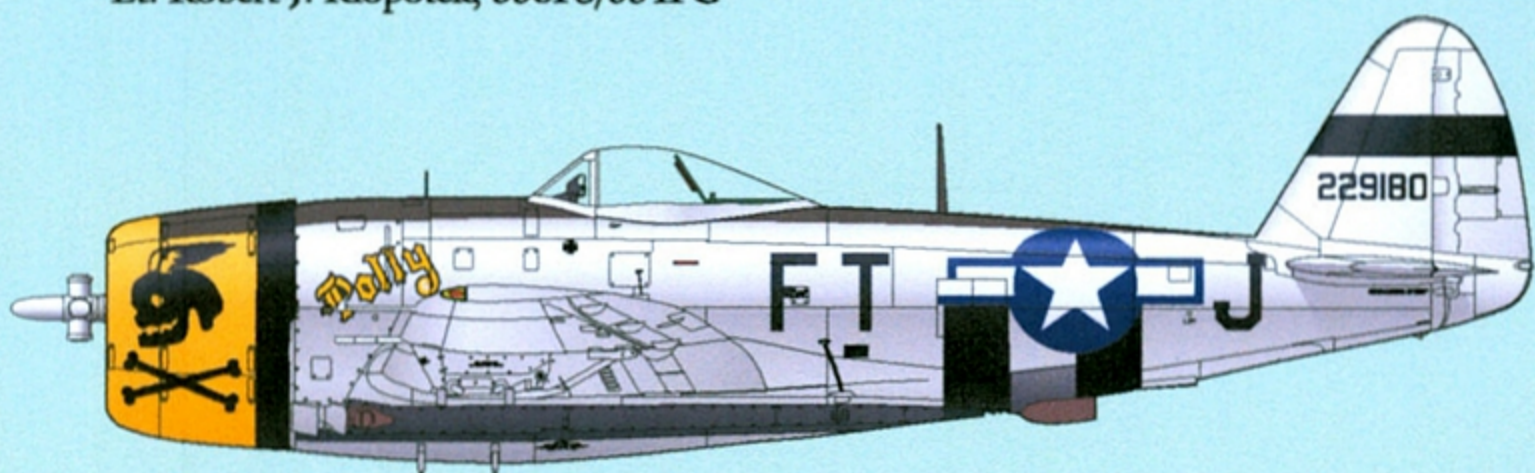
Limited Edition!



Capt. Lowell Brueland, 355th FS/354th FG



Lt. Robert J. Klopotek, 356FS/354FG



Lt. Chuck A. Olmsted, 353rd FS/354 FG

Recommended kits: Tamiya P-47 Thunderbolt Bubbletop

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Republic P-47D Thunderbolt Part 5

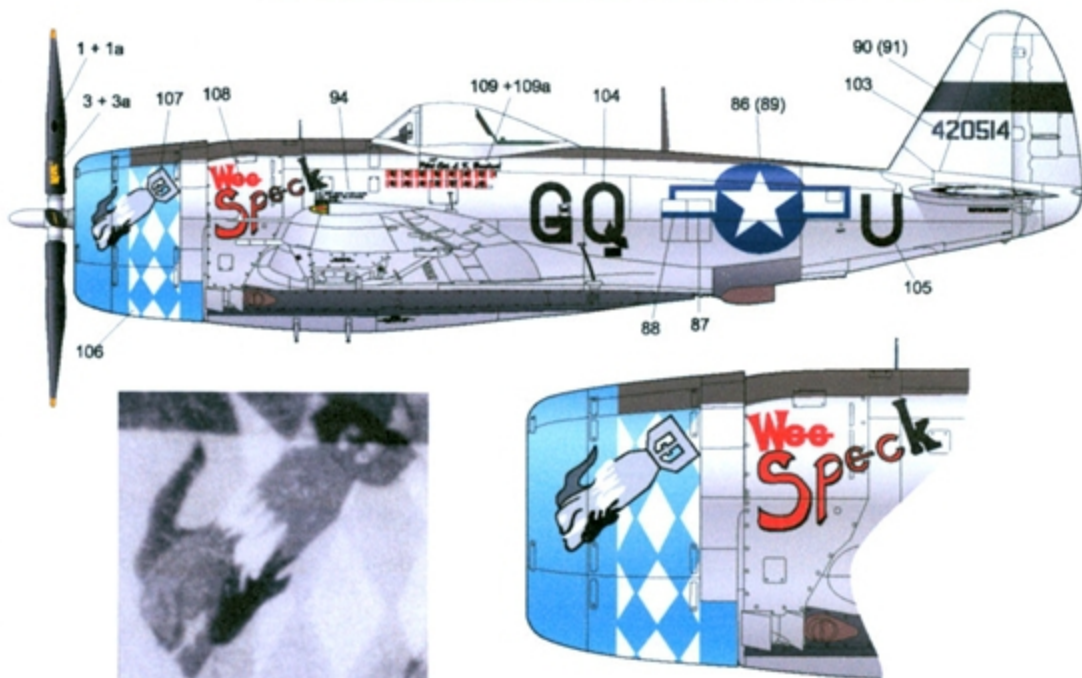
A/C #1

P-47D-30 flown by Capt. Lowell Brueland, 355th FS/354th FG, Rosieres-en-Haye/ France, December 1944.

It is finished in the NMF overall with OD anti-glare and spoke-type wheel cover. The cowling of the 355th FS P-47 is painted in light blue (exact color not known) with white diamond checker.

The only photo available for this A/C is shown in ref. 1, and is illustrated in ref. 2 and 3. In contrast to the illustration in ref. 3, the photo clearly shows that the bomb mark on the cowling (unofficial Squadron emblem) is not black, but slightly darker than the light blue color. Happily another very good close-up photo of the emblem is supplied by Mr. Doug Gifford (author of ref. 2), and is shown on the right. There is no information on its color, but we think bomb fuselage is probably light gray with white muffler (?) and dark gray (or red) cap with black shark-like object on its belly. The style and position of this emblem differs slightly from A/C to A/C. This emblem might represent the gloomy sentiment of the Squadron with the change of its role (fighter to fighter-bomber) and A/C (P-51B to P-47).

The photo of ref. 1 also shows that (1) "Speck" is outlined/shadowed in black, while Wee is not, and (2) the letter "k" is much darker than other letters (red) and quite similar to code letters (black). As it is



rather strange that only "k" is black, so many people (including ref. 3) think "k" is red with the shadow of the crew (standing on its right) superimposing. But the photo indicates that shadow of crew's right arm, waist and leg covers only the right portion of "k". We think "k" is black, so provide black

"k" in the sheet. If you prefer red "k", please use mark 106a.

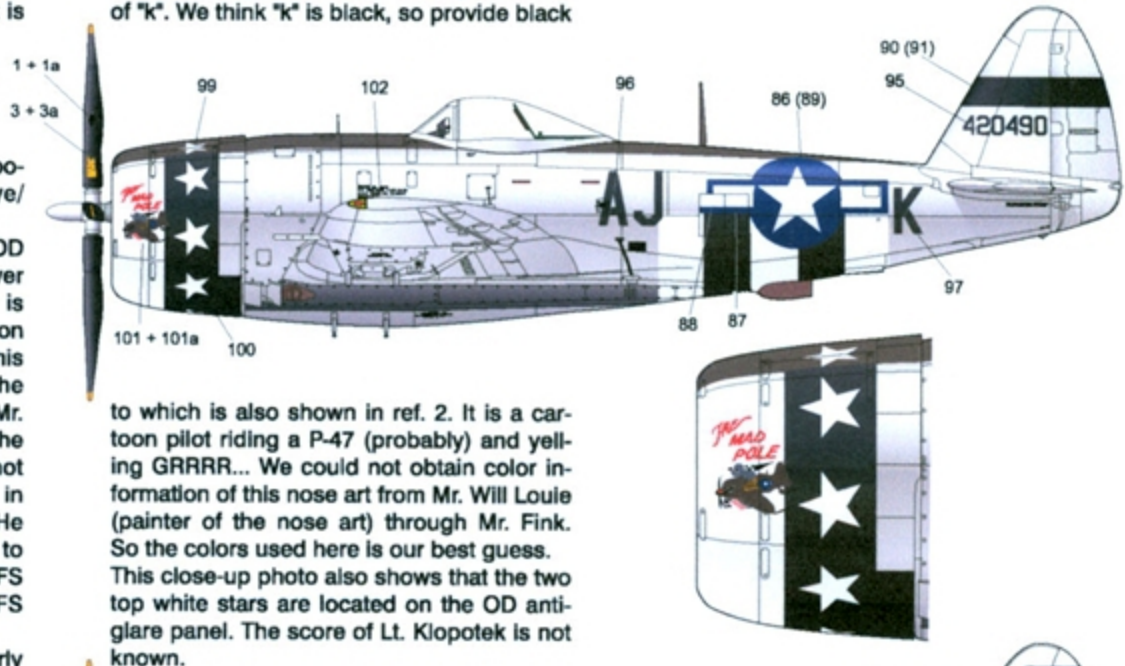
Capt. Brueland finished the war with 12.5 kills, 3 probables, 6 damaged, and added 2 further kills (MIG-15) in the Korean War.

A/C #2

P-47D-30-RE flown by Lt. Robert J. Klopotek, 356FS/354FG, Rosieres-en-Haye/ France, December 1944.

It is finished in the NMF overall with OD anti-glare and invasion stripes on lower fuselage. The cowling of the 356FS P-47 is painted in white/black with white stars on the black band. It is very often said that this dark band is insignia blue, but the noteworthy new information we got from Mr. Fink (author of ref. 2) is that the band on the cowling of 356th FS P-47 is black, not insignia blue. Photos of 356th FS P-47 in ref. 3 and 4 support this contention. He informed us that P-47s were delivered to 354th FG with black cowling, and 353rd FS painted its nose yellow, while 356th FS painted its nose white.

Though its photo in ref. 4 does not clearly show the nose art, Mr. Doug Gifford supplied us a copy of the original close-up photo



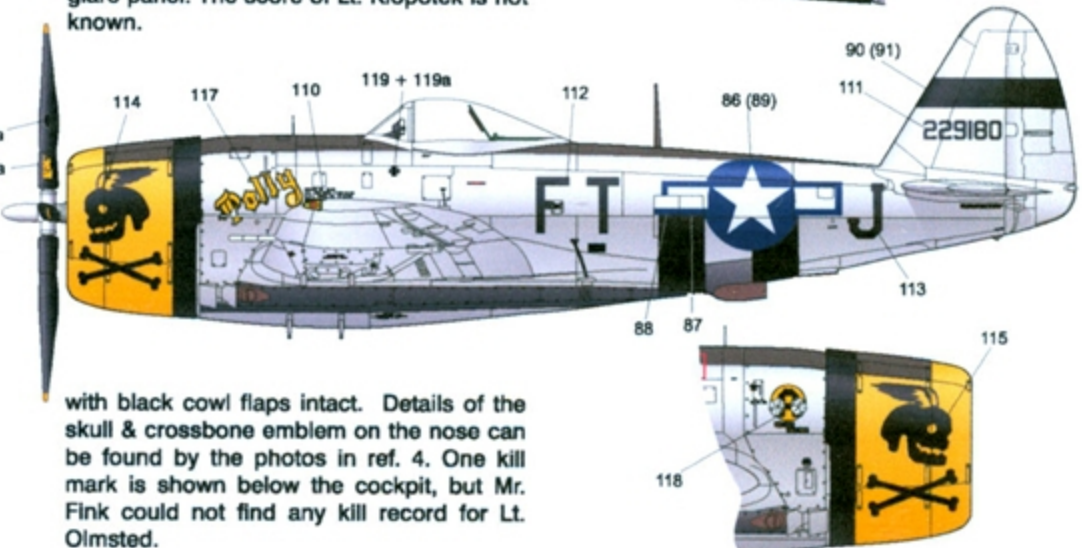
to which is also shown in ref. 2. It is a cartoon pilot riding a P-47 (probably) and yelling GRRRR... We could not obtain color information of this nose art from Mr. Will Louie (painter of the nose art) through Mr. Fink. So the colors used here is our best guess. This close-up photo also shows that the two top white stars are located on the OD anti-glare panel. The score of Lt. Klopotek is not known.

A/C #3

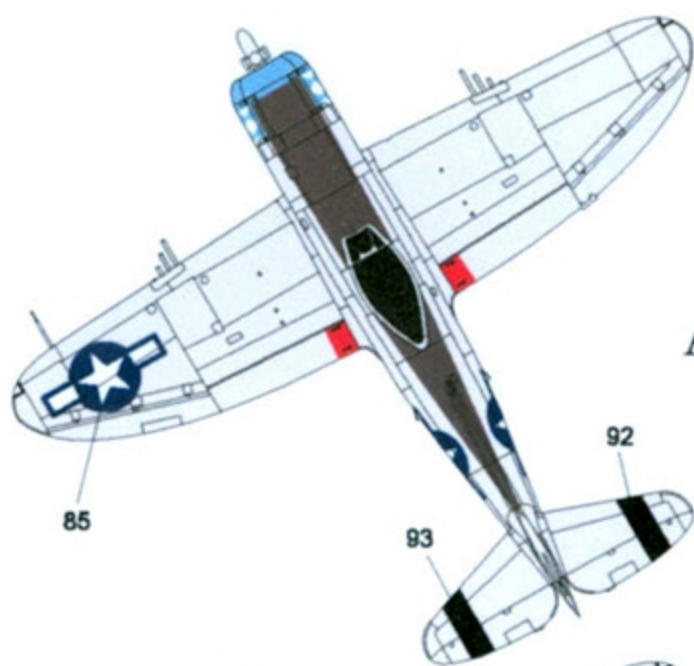
P-47D-28-RA flown by Lt. Chuck A. Olmsted, 353rd FS/354 FG, Rosieres-en-Haye/ France, December 1944.

No photo is published for this A/C, but Mr. Doug Gifford kindly provided us with 4 unpublished photos of this A/C, which show not only the left side overall view but also show the personal marking "Double Trouble" on the right side.

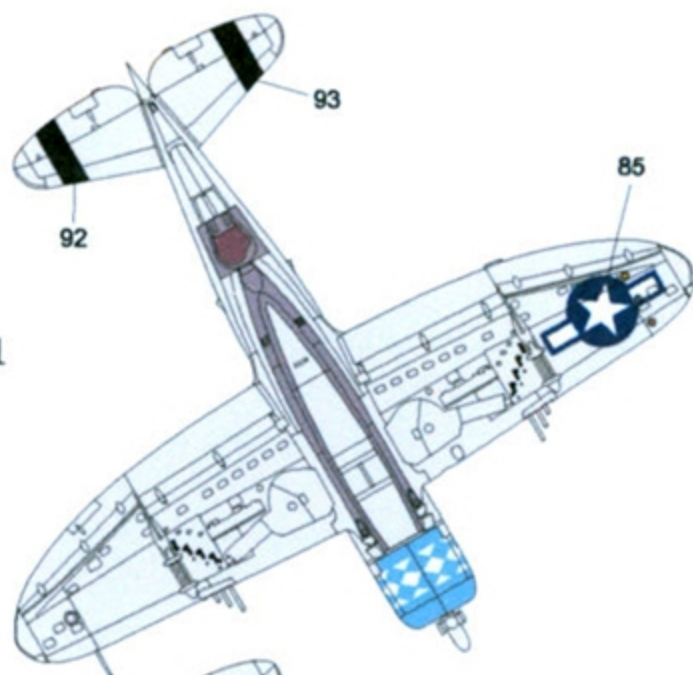
It is finished in the NMF overall with OD anti-glare panel and only black stripes on the lower fuselage. As shown above, 353rd FS painted the cowling of their P-47 yellow



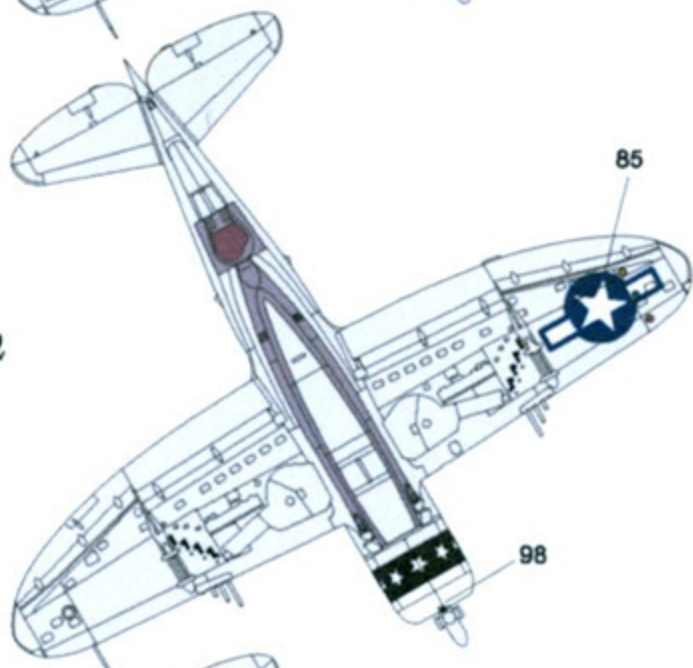
with black cowl flaps intact. Details of the skull & crossbone emblem on the nose can be found by the photos in ref. 4. One kill mark is shown below the cockpit, but Mr. Fink could not find any kill record for Lt. Olmsted.



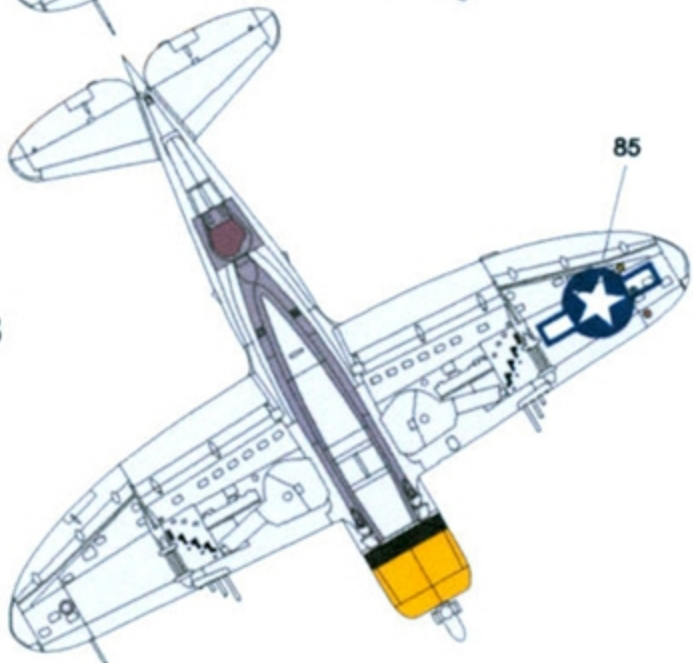
A/C #1



A/C #2



A/C #3



Special thanks to Mr. Doug Gifford/Mr. Walter Fink for the photos and informations.

References;

- (1) Aces & Wingmen (Danny Morris, Neville Spearman, 1972).
- (2) IPMS Journal Special Limited Edition, the 354th FG in WWII part 1 (W. Fink & D. Gifford, 1993).
- (3) Osprey Aviation Elite 7, 354th Fighter Group (W. Hess, Osprey Publishing, 2002).
- (4) Aces & Wingmen II, vol. 2 (Bill Hess, Aviation USK, 1999).