

# Belcher Bits Decal BD4: Canadian Harvard Mk II

The North American Harvard is probably one of the best-known trainers in the world and was used in great numbers during WWII by Commonwealth countries. The origin of the design dates from 1935 when North American produced their NA-16 trainer. This machine with open cockpit and fixed undercarriage generated no orders but was developed into the BT-9 trainer for the USAAC. A further development with a Pratt and Whitney Wasp engine and retracting undercarriage was designated NA-26. Apart from 180 for the USAAC as the BC-1, a further 400 were sold to the RAF as the Harvard Mk I (The Royal Canadian Air Force also purchased 30). Early Harvards had a vicious stall and the USAAC's BC-2 variant used a new wing with slightly less sweep (one identifying feature of a Harvard Mk I is the straight trailing edge and rounded wingtips). The BC-2 was eventually redesignated as AT-6, the forerunner of the Texan line. The Harvard Mk II was the RAF equivalent of the AT-6A, differing only in using the early style fixed rear canopy, a lengthened exhaust pipe used for cabin heating and British style control column. A number of Harvard Mk Is were purchased by the RAF and RCAF from North American. However, in 1940, Noorduyn Aviation of Montreal started producing the Harvard under license; it was the most numerous aircraft produced in Canada. After the war, Noorduyn reopened the production line and produced 270 Harvard 4s (and a further 285 T-6Js for the US government, these all being distributed to friendly nations under the Military Defence Aid Pact). This sheet covers five Canadian Harvard IIs spanning the period 1941-1954.

1. s/n 2564, No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1941

2. s/n AJ955, No. 2 Wireless School, Sheppard, Alberta, 1943

3. s/n 2905, RCAF circa 1947

4. s/n 2157, RCN, OFTU, Shearwater, NS, 1948

5. s/n 3188, RCN, VC-920, Downsview, ON, 1954

## Other 1/48 Belcher Bits decals available:

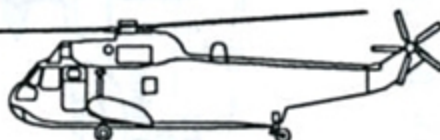
BD1: Canadian Navy Helicopters. Two schemes for HO4S-3, three for CH 124 Sea King

BD2: Canadian Air Force helicopters. H-19 and H-34 from Mid-Canada line, 4 x CH 136 Kiows, CH 139 Jet Ranger, 3 x CH 118 Iroquois, 3 x CH 135 Twin Huey

BD5: US Navy and USMC SNJ-2 and SNJ-6. This sheet also includes a resin rudder for the SNJ-2.

**Other products available; contact us for a free product listing**

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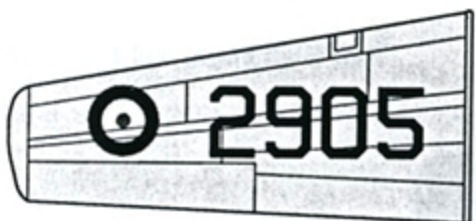
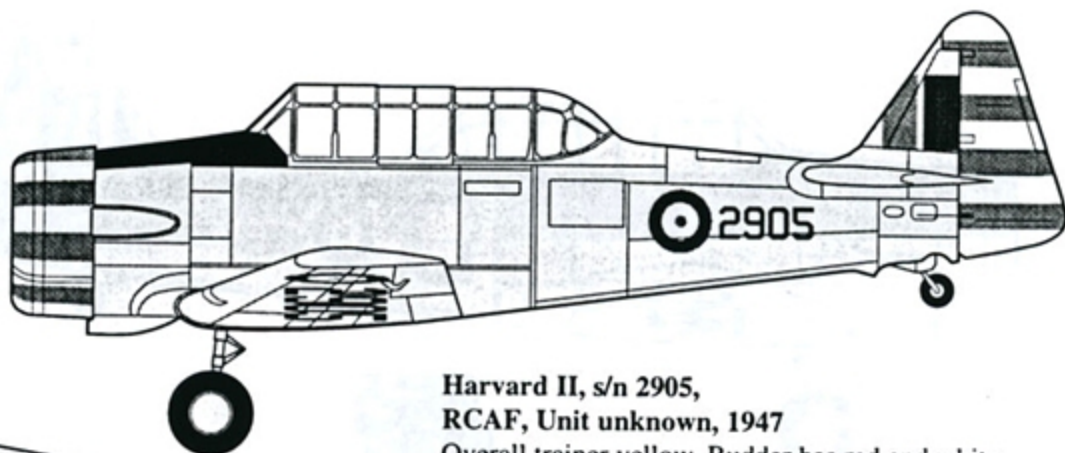
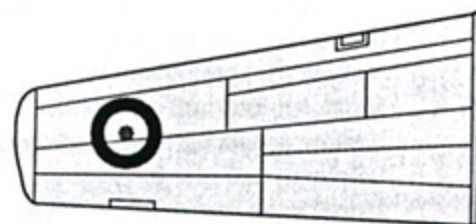


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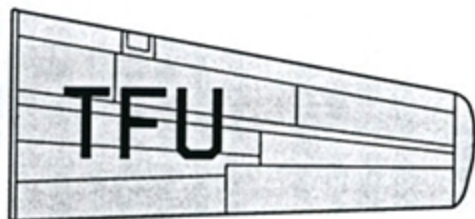
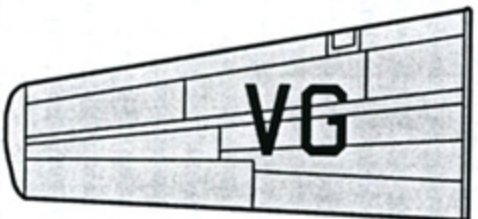
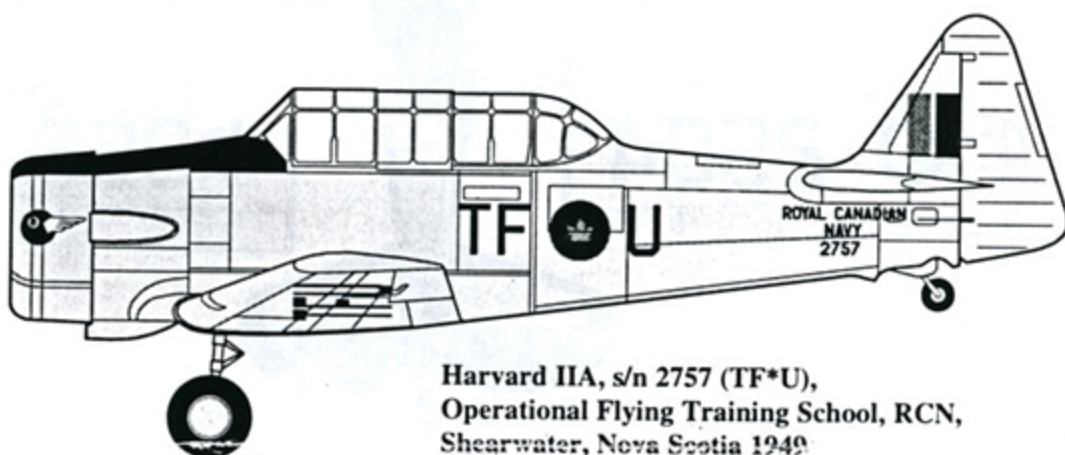
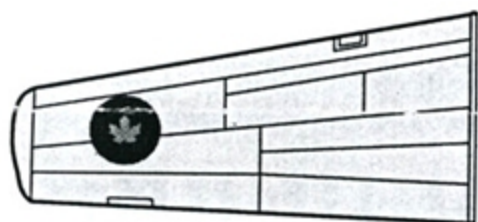




**Harvard II, s/n 2905,  
RCAF, Unit unknown, 1947**

Overall trainer yellow. Rudder has red and white stripes. Cowling has 18 red and white stripes; black anti-glare panel not carried on cowling.

Ref: Photo in *Harvard!*, p.70

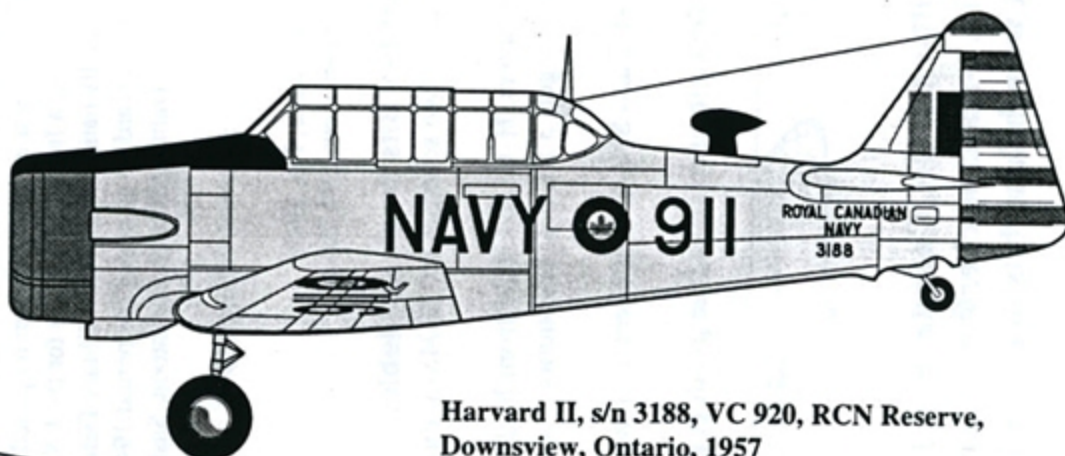
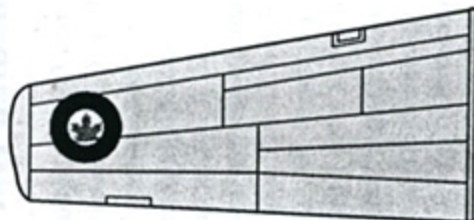


**Harvard IIA, s/n 2757 (TF\*U),  
Operational Flying Training School, RCN,  
Shearwater, Nova Scotia 1948**

Overall trainer yellow with black anti-glare panel on nose. Winged eight-ball (as carried by No.1 Training Air Group a/c) on both sides of cowl. RCN a/c of this era carried early RCN roundels consisting of red leaf on blue disk.

This aircraft had light series bomb carriers under each wing, a 0.303" mg in the starboard wing and a reflector gunsight.

Ref: PAC Photo PA116618 in *Harvard!*, p.96

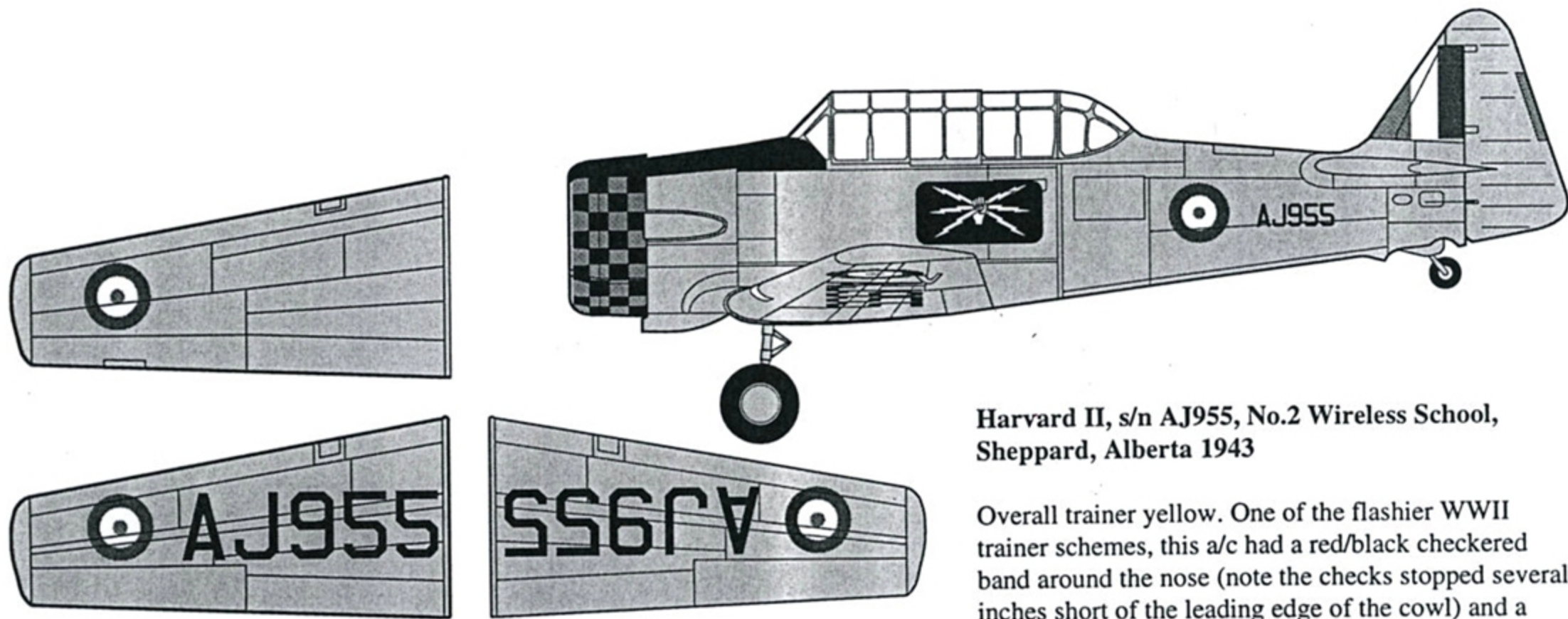


**Harvard II, s/n 3188, VC 920, RCN Reserve,  
Downsview, Ontario, 1957**

Overall trainer yellow with black anti-glare panel. Rudder has red and white stripes. Cowling is red. Red and white 'yin-yang' symbols on wheel discs.

Ref: Photo in *Harvard!*, p.100





Harvard II, s/n AJ955, No.2 Wireless School,  
Sheppard, Alberta 1943

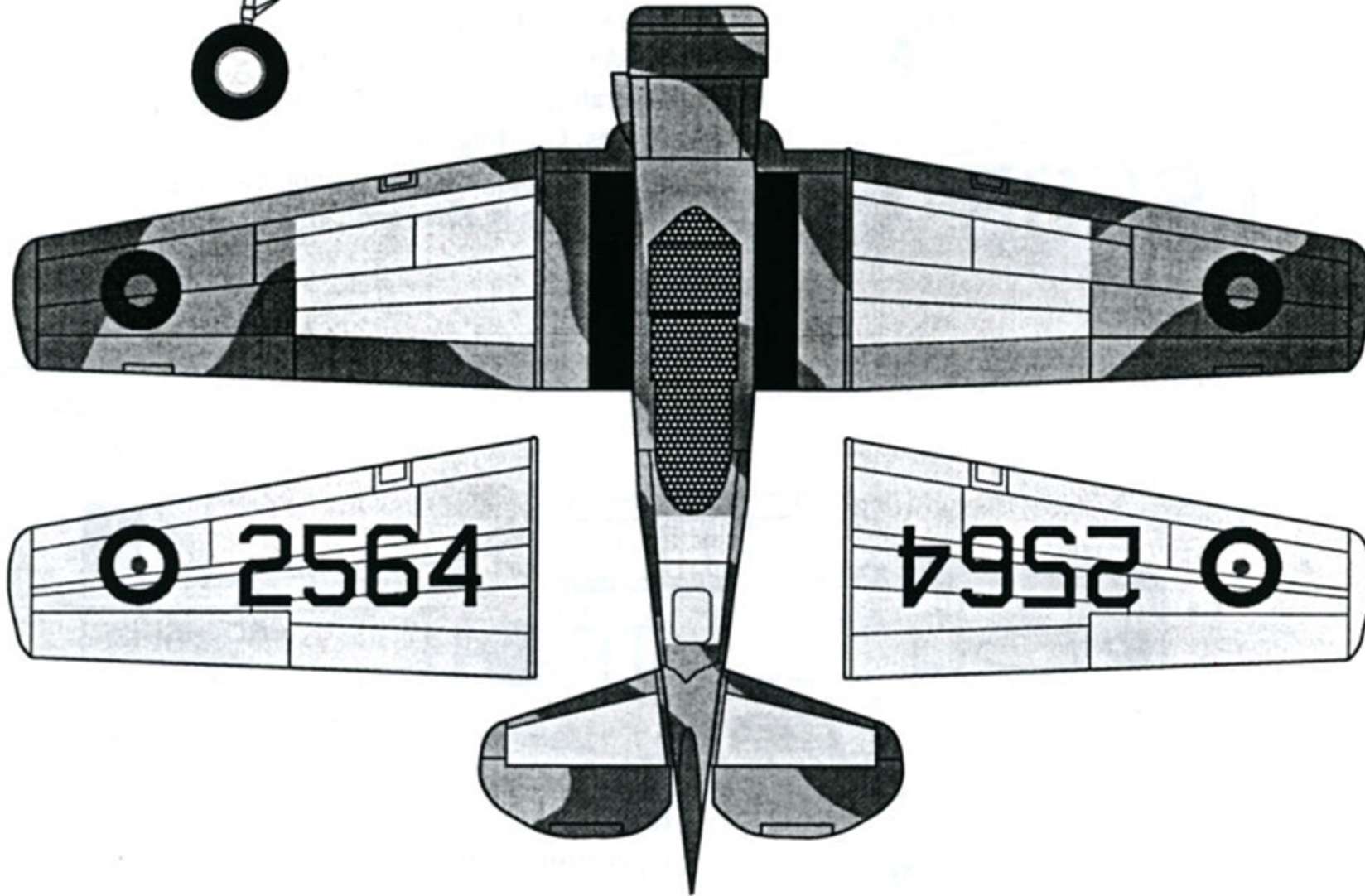
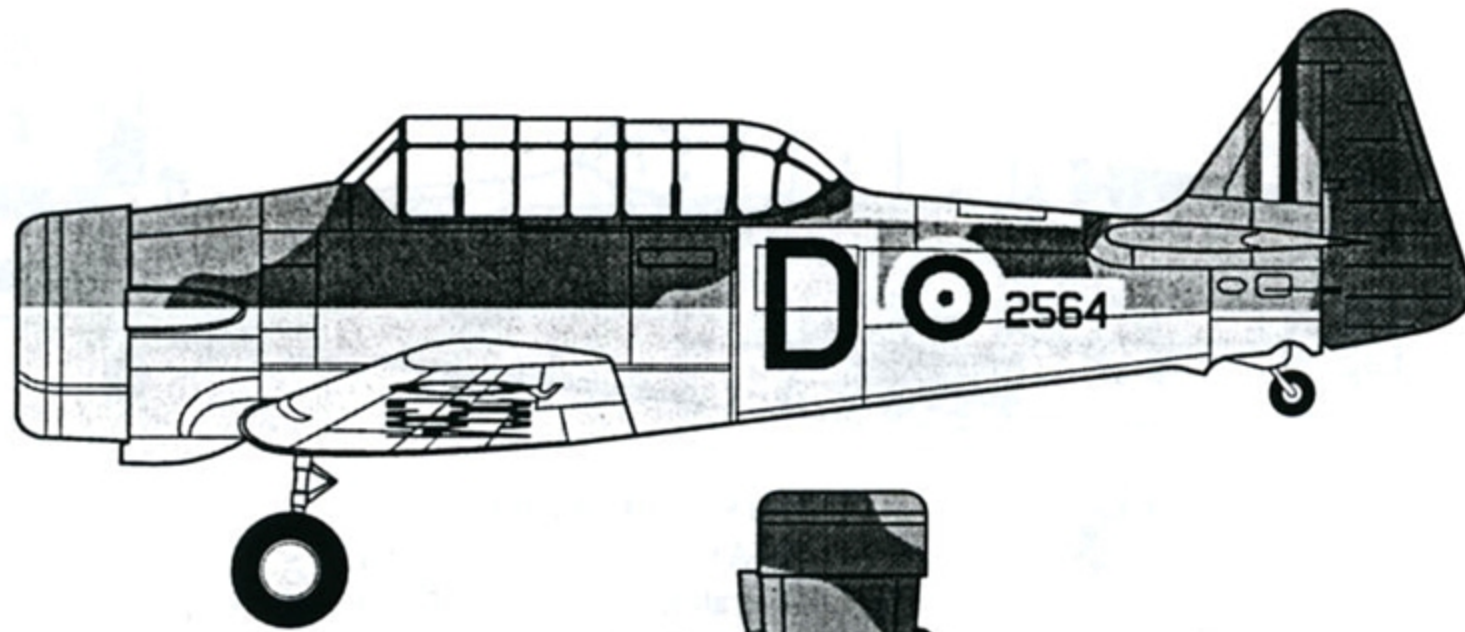
Overall trainer yellow. One of the flashier WWII trainer schemes, this a/c had a red/black checkered band around the nose (note the checks stopped several inches short of the leading edge of the cowl) and a large representation of the wireless operator's badge on the fuselage side. One more colourful aspect was that all trim tabs were painted red. The cowl checks decal will fit better if small slits are made between each check in the leading row. The decal is designed to go around the bottom of the cowling up to the black area on the top of the cowl. It would be best to cut a piece of tape the exact length of the cowl strip, wrap it around the cowl and use this to measure how much black to paint on the cowl top.

**Modelling Canadian Harvards** Until recently, no 1/48 kits of the Harvard existed. The Monogram Texan was close, but it represented the AT-6D with movable rear canopy section required for the gunnery training role. The Harvard's fixed canopy section was longer and slightly differently shaped. In 1998, a new kit of the Harvard was released by Occidental from Portugal. This kit is also excellent and includes the correct fixed rear canopy section, extended exhaust pipe with cockpit heater inlet. One criticism of the kit is the cowling which is fully cylindrical. All Harvard (and AT-6) cowlings had a slight upward slope on their top surface. Use the Monogram cowling if you have a spare.

Modelcraft has released a licensed version of this kit with RCAF markings including markings for the famous 'Goldilocks' RCAF air demonstration team...well done and highly recommended.

**Ref: High Flight Vol 1 No.2, p79.**





**Harvard II, s/n 2564, No.4 Service Flying Training School, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 1941**

Camouflage finish of dark earth and dark green over trainer yellow. Yellow backgrounds to fuselage serial, roundel and a/c number. Yellow panels on wing, horizontal tailplanes and rear fuselage top. Upper wing roundels are B type (blue and red only).

**Ref: High Flight Vol 1 No.2, p79.**