

48-619

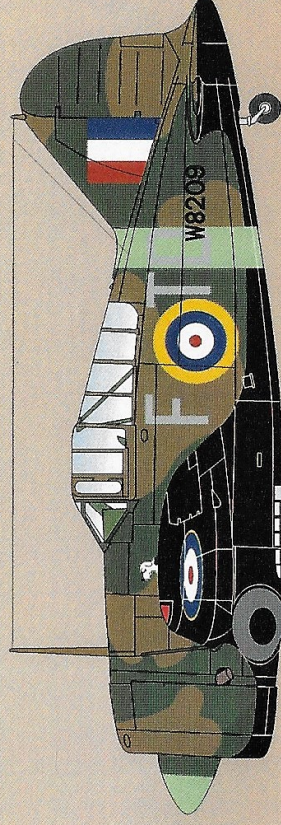
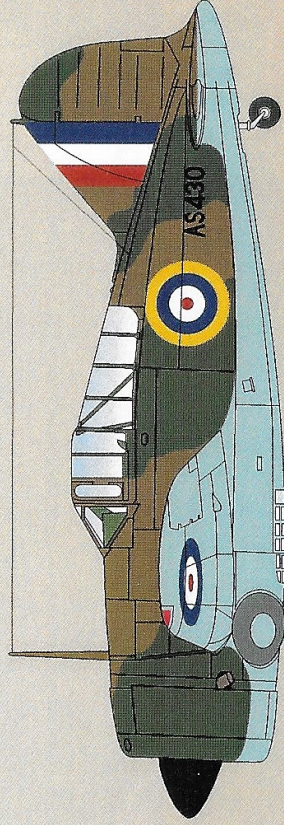
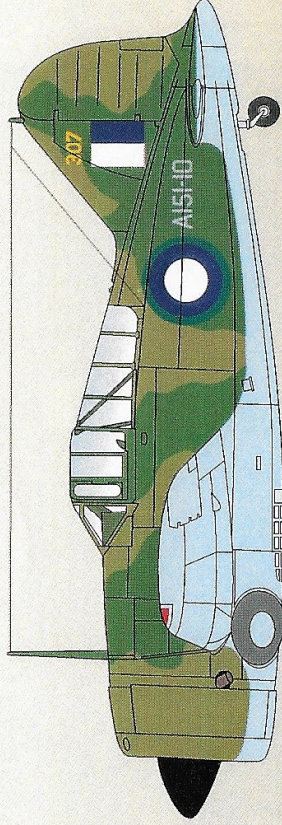
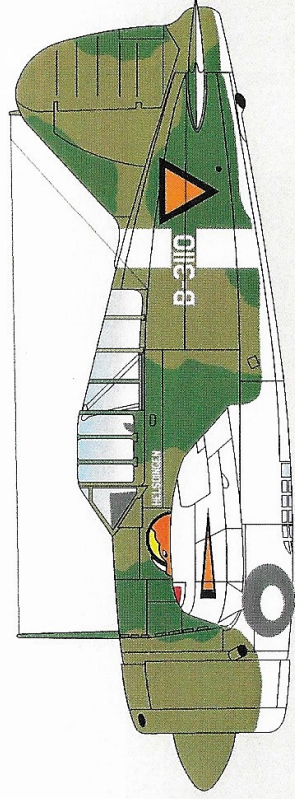
AeroMaster™

PRODUCTS

Buffalo Over South East Asia

RAF, RAAF & RNZAF Brewster Buffalo Mk.I 1941-42

Pt.1

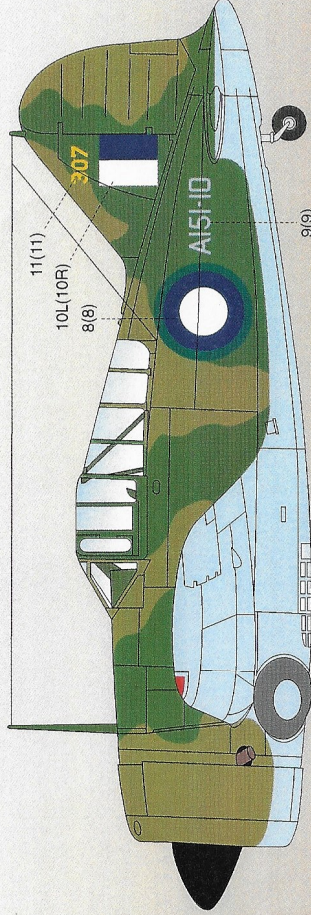
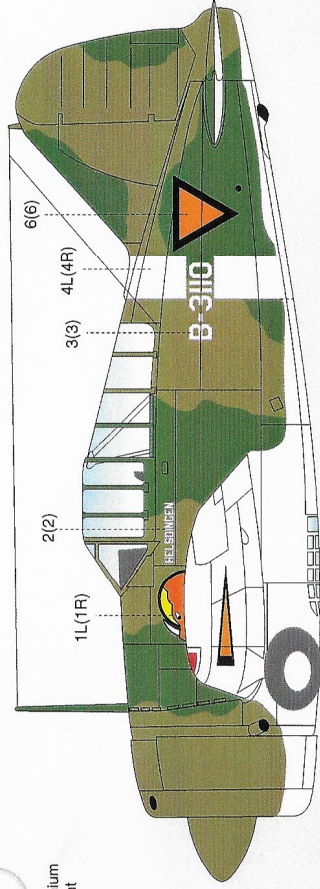


Suggested Kit: Tamiya F2A Buffalo



Brewster 339C Buffalo.

B-3110, 2-VLG-V, Militaire Luchvaart - Koninklijk Nederlands-Indisch Leger (Netherlands East Indies Army Air Corps or ML-KNIL), Singapore, January 1942. Flown by Kapt. J. P. Van Helsingen. U.S. Olive Drab 41 and Medium Green 42 camouflage with painted Silver lower surfaces. Fuselage band White. Propeller blades Black with 8" Yellow tips. Kapt. Van Helsingen was killed in action on 7 March 1942.



Brewster Buffalo Model 339-23

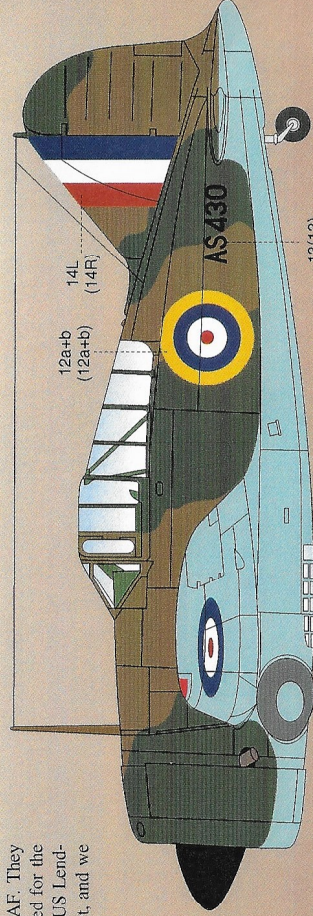
A151-10 307, 25 Squadron RAAF, Perth, Australia, late 1942. The RAAF took over 9 Buffalos from the USAAF in Australia. Originally these were a Dutch consignment headed for the Far East. 25 Squadron was tasked with the defence of Western Australia and Perth in particular. A151-10 carries the revised RAAF national insignia, but still wears a USAAF ID number on the fin. Note the painting out of earlier US fuselage insignia in lighter coloured paints camouflaged as per number one, but with RAAF Sky Blue lower surfaces.

Buffalo Colour Schemes

The Brewster Buffalo Mk.I, was supplied to the RAF as part of the Lend-Lease Scheme with the USA. They were sent direct to the Far East theatre and arrived in the paint scheme applied in the US. This was, as near as possible, the equivalents to RAF colours. However, there were discrepancies! Similarly, the Dutch Buffalos were diverted to the USAAF in Australia and then passed on to the RAAF. They were received in their original US painted equivalents to colours specified for the Royal Netherlands East Indies Air Force, plus overpainted US insignia! US Lend-Lease and export colour schemes are a fascinating and frustrating subject, and we recommend modellers to undertake careful research!

Brewster Buffalo Mk.I AS430

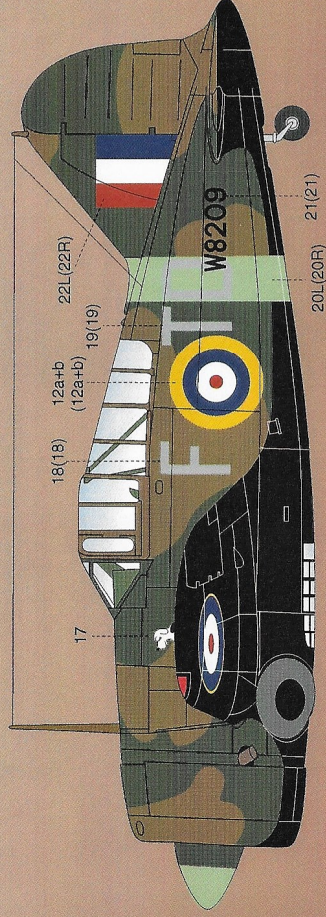
4 PRU, Selatar, Malaya, late 1941. 4 PRU had 2 Buffalos to carry out reconnaissance work for the whole of the Singapore area. Amazingly, they survived most of the campaign as unarmed aircraft! Note the unusual full length fin fuselage.



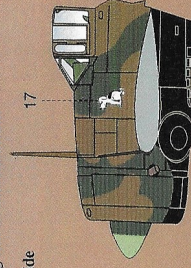
The Sky fighter band positioned around the fuselage, at the base of the fin, is 18" (9.5mm to scale) wide.

Brewster Buffalo Mk.I W8209 TD-F

Sgt. M.N. 'Mac' Read, 453 Squadron RAAF, Sembawang, Singapore, November 1941. During the desperate struggle to defend Singapore, Sgt. Read lost his life ramming a Japanese aircraft after running out of ammunition.



Positioning of starboard side codes and roundel



Scrap view of W8209 port fuselage with wing removed showing position of decal

References:

- Small Air Forces Observer, Vol. 16, No. 2, April 1992.
- Bloody Shambles. Vol. 1, Christopher Shores and Brian Cull with Yasuho Izawa, Grubb Street 1992
- F2A Buffalo in action. No.81. Squadron/Signal Publications inc 1987
- Eyes for the Phoenix. Geoffrey J Thomas, Hikoki Publications 1999
- Scale Aircraft Modelling April 1997: Photo Reconnaissance - Aircraft in Detail
- Combat Colours No.4: Pearl Harbour and Beyond, Scale Aircraft Modelling Colours



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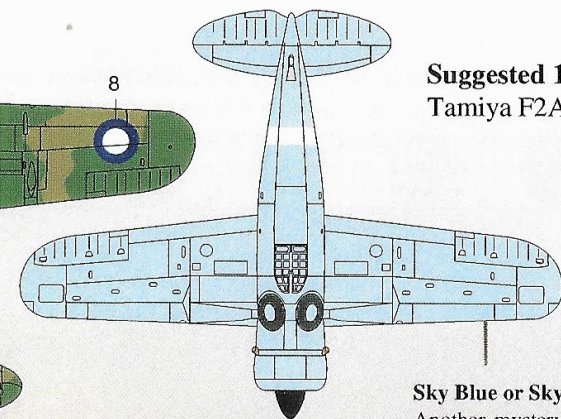
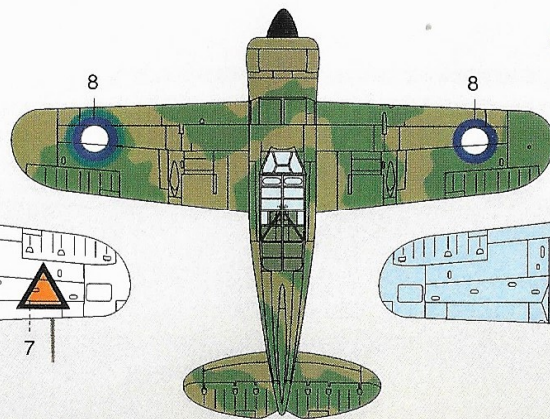
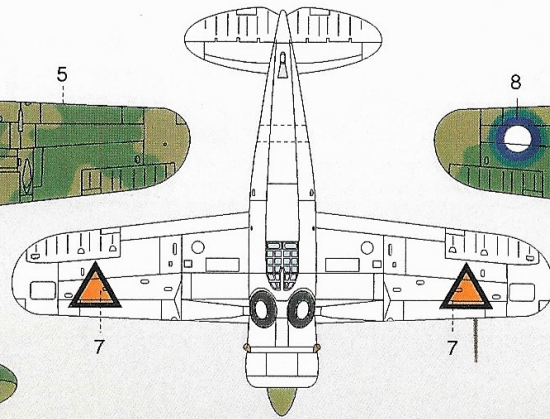
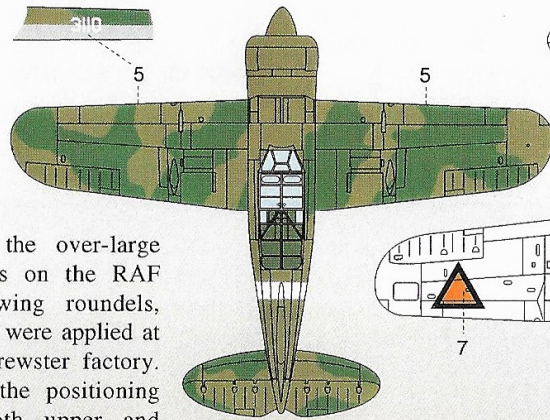
Aircraft have serial on both wing leading edges.

Buffalo Model 339-307 A151-10

General plan view showing typical Buffalo upper surface camouflage pattern as applied for delivery to the Dutch East Indies and positioning of roundels. Note the overpainting of earlier US insignia on port wing.

Front view

Buffalo 339C-3110

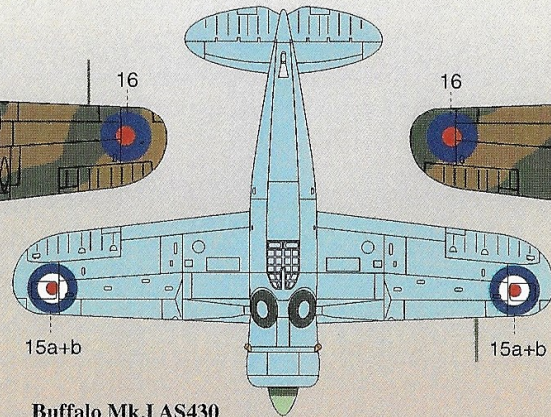
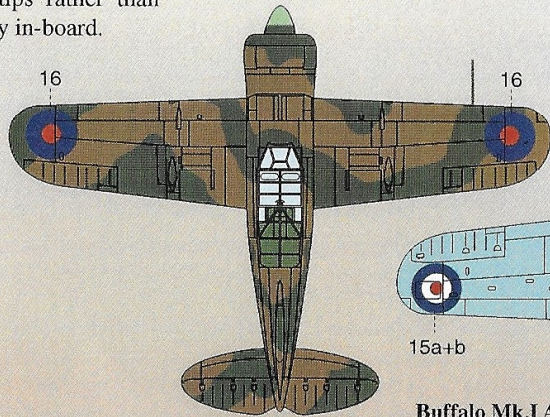


Suggested 1:48 Scale Kits:
Tamiya F2A Buffalo

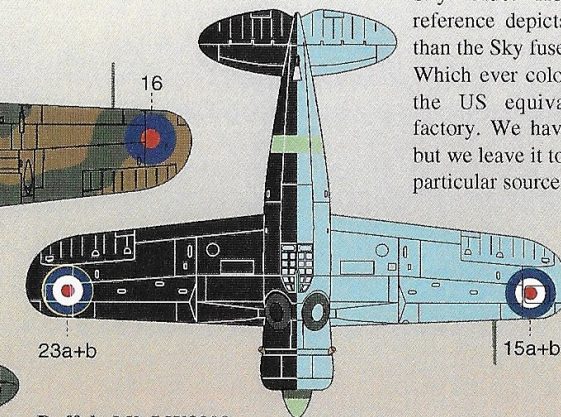
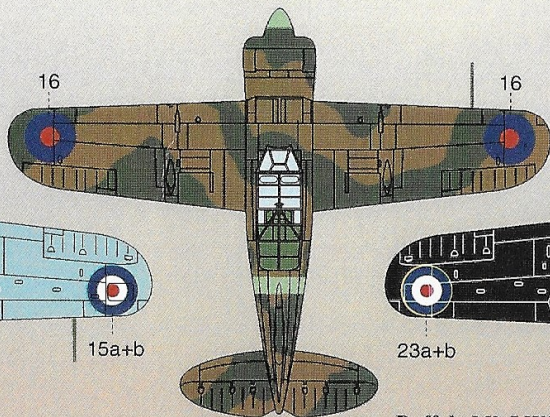
Note the over-large centres on the RAF underwing roundels, which were applied at the Brewster factory. Also the positioning of both upper and underwing roundels is unusual, being at the wing tips rather than slightly in-board.

Sky Blue or Sky Grey?

Another mystery with the Buffalo was the exact identity of the undersurface colour. Written reference leans towards Sky Blue. However, photographic reference depicts the colour as darker than the Sky fuselage band (Sky Grey?). Which ever colour it would have been the US equivalent applied at the factory. We have opted for Sky Blue, but we leave it to the modeller and their particular source of reference!



Buffalo Mk.I AS430



Buffalo Mk.I W8209

General plan view showing Sky/Night under surface scheme and positioning of roundels

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' input, so if you have specific suggestions or photographs of unusual subject matter which you would be willing to share, please contact us.