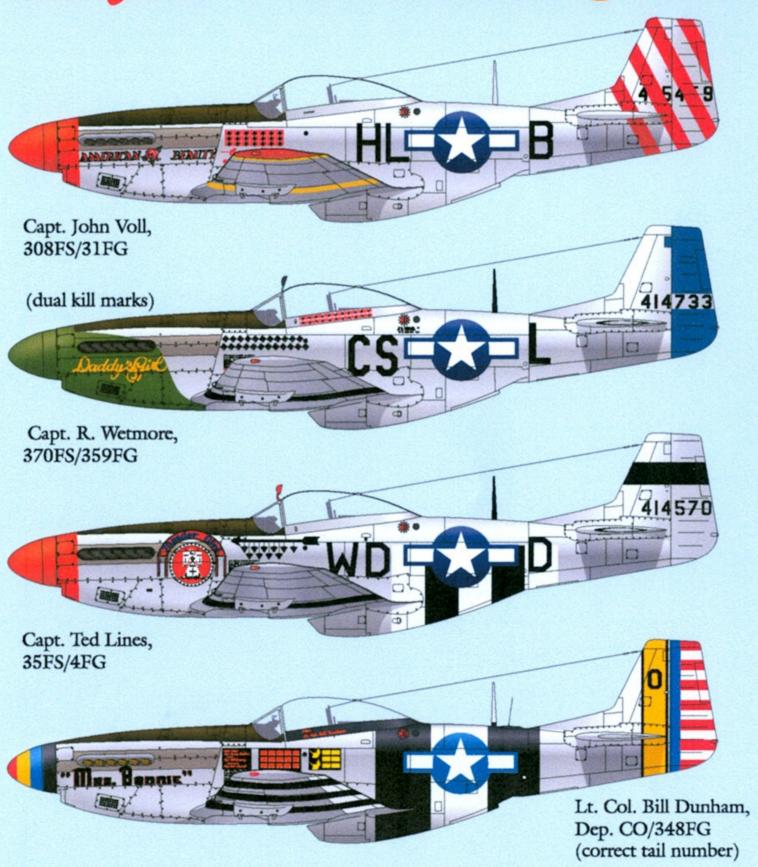


# 48-015 North American P-51 Mustang Pt.1



Recommended kit: Tamiya P-51D Mustang

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### 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, but there is no decal for this A/C in 1/48 or 1/72 scale, except the old SuperScale Decal. It is finished in the NMF overall with OD antiglare 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 is 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

#### 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) shows its red outline.

## 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 Stripe remains on bottom fuselage only.

# A/C #4

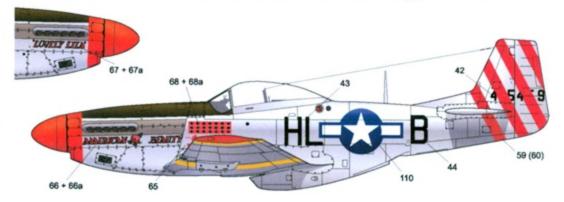
P-51K-10-NT (s/n44-12017) flown by Lt. Col. Bill Dunham, Deputy CO/348FG, le Shima/Okinawa, August 1945.

This is a very famous A/C, and a total of 8 photos (including one color photo) are known (ref. 13-20). But due to the mistake in the illustration in ref. 15 & 18, his tail number has always been erroneously shown as "00", but close check of the position and existence/non-existence of "0" against red stripes on rudder definitely shows that only ONE "0" is applied, and its position is slightly different on both sides.

Also noteworthy are the red shadow on "Mrs. Bonnie" (ref. 14, 15 & 20) and light blue color on fuselage national insignia (the color photo of ref. 13). This A/C is K-model, and photo with Aero Products propeller does exist (ref. 15-17), but it was later retrofitted with D-type propeller. The color of mission marks and ships sinking mark is not known,

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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

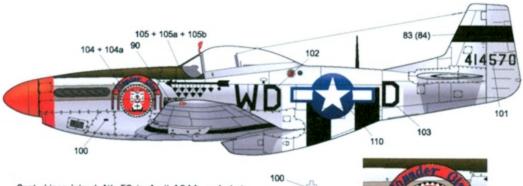
returned to States in December. So these photos might be the memorial shots for his outstanding achievement.



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 color 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.



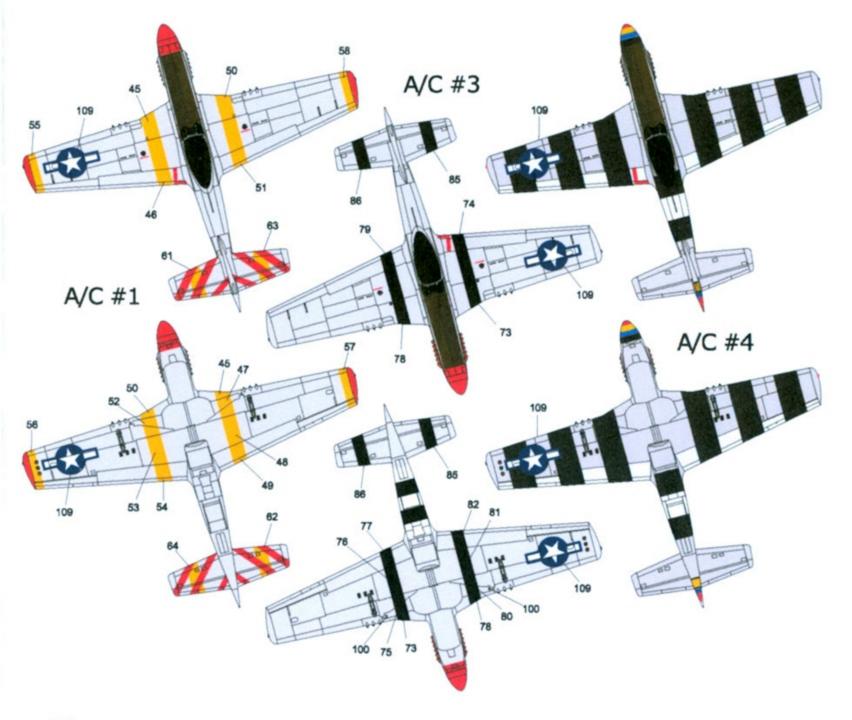
Capt. Lines joined 4th FG in April 1944, and shot down 10 enemy A/C in just 5 months. But his final 3 victories in October were never officially credited. After finishing his tour of duty, he was assigned to 70th Replacement Depot, and retired from USAF after the war. His credit is 10 kills.



and might be gray either. In the color photo exhaust cover is in pink color, but we do not know the reason why. In April 2015 another photo was shown on the internet, which clearly shows that this A/C is fitted with a whip antenna behind antenna mast, and white paint was applied between fuselage black

bands and on flaps/ailerons of wings.

Lt. Col. Dunham scored his last kill (16th, Hayate) over southern Japan on August 1st, 1945. He continued service in USAF after the war, rose 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.



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