

TGR



Tarheel Ace Part 1

GS-48002

1/48th Scale

THREE GUYS REPLICAS



By Christmas Afternoon 1944, Major George E. Preddy, Jr was the leading active USAAF fighter pilot in the ETO with 27.5 confirmed aerial victories. On the verge of surpassing the 28-victory total of Lt Col Francis Gabreski, then a German POW, Preddy was shot down and killed by a US Army M16 quad-fifty halftrack while chasing a Fw190 over the Hürtgen Forest. His most successful and most famous mount was P-51D 44-13321 *Cripes A'Mighty Third* which, between 29 June and 18 July 1944, carried 17 white victory crosses and a full set of D-Day markings (above).

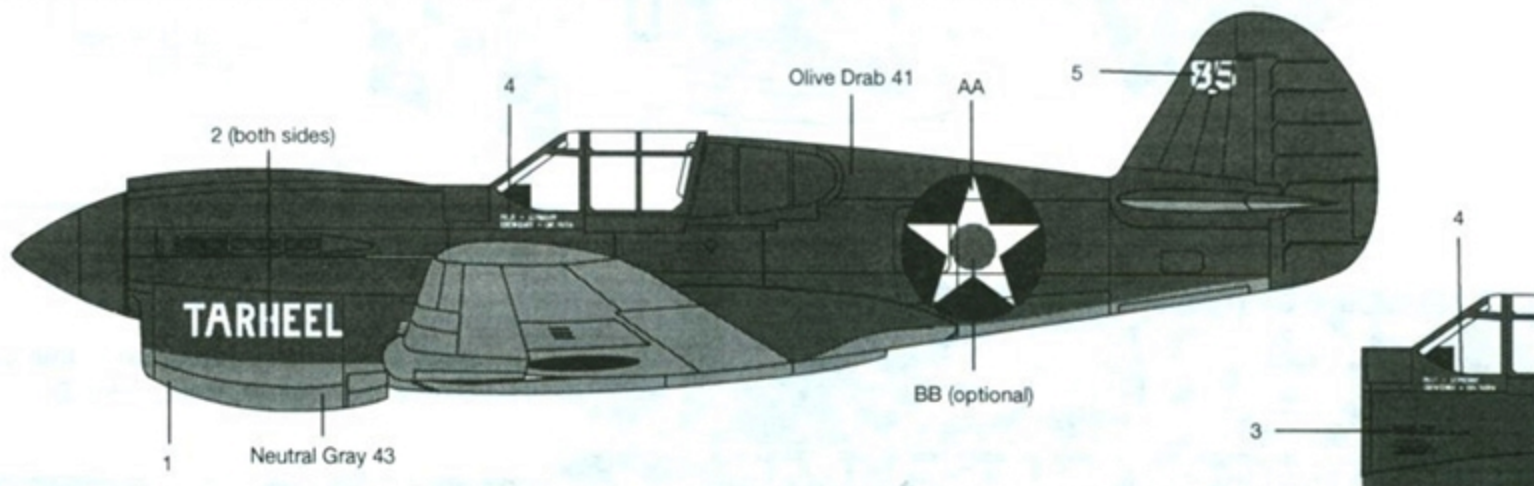
George Preddy flew his first combat missions in the P-40E with the 49th Fighter Group in Australia. He claimed no victories before being injured bailing out of his Warhawk after a mid-air collision during a training mission in July 1942. After recuperating in the States, he joined the 487th Fighter Squadron, 352nd Fighter Group and, in June, 1943 shipped out for England. The 352nd became operational in September, flying P-47D Thunderbolts from their base at Bodney. He downed his first victim, a Messerschmitt 109, on 1 December flying his Thunderbolt *Cripes A'Mighty*. After the 352nd received the P-51 Mustang fighter in April 1944, Preddy's score rose quickly. His first victory in P-51B *Cripes A'Mighty* came on 11 April. In mid-June, he was assigned one of the Group's first bubble-canopy P-51Ds. More victories (21 officially credited air and ground victories, including four by John C. Meyer) were scored in 44-13321 than in any other Mustang in WWII. Preddy shot down an unprecedented six Bf109s on 6 August, rocketing his victory scoreboard to 31 air and ground victory crosses. After a short stateside tour starting in August 1944, he returned to the 352nd in late October to take command of the 328th FS where he added four more aerial victories, the last two coming on 25 December 1944.

Three Guys Replicas have two decal sheets to provide the serious scale modeler with all the versions of all of George Preddy's WWII fighters. Please see our companion sheet GS-48003 *Tarheel Ace Part 2* for his P-47D *Cripes A'Mighty* and P-51Ds *Cripes A'Mighty Third* as marked after 18 July 1944 and the fourth *Cripes A'Mighty* as of early November, 1944. Also included on our companion sheet are markings for the P-51K *Rusty*, flown by George's younger brother Bill, who served with the 339th Fighter Group in England from January of 1945.



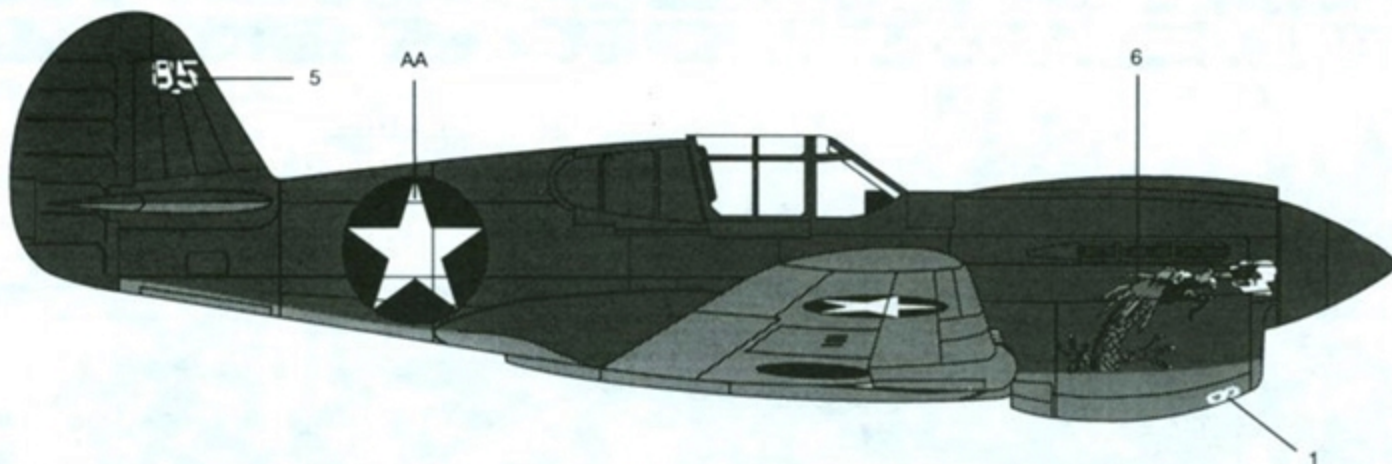
P-40E-CU 41-5509 *Tarheel* 9th FS, 49th FG Darwin, Australia April-May 1942

Olive Drab 41 upper surfaces and Neutral Gray 43 undersides. *Tarheel* carried on both left and right sides. It is possible that the 49th painted out the Red circle in the US national insignia before it was officially deleted on 15 May 1942, but photographs which can be accurately dated to April and May 1942 have not been found. Red circles are included here as options for this period.



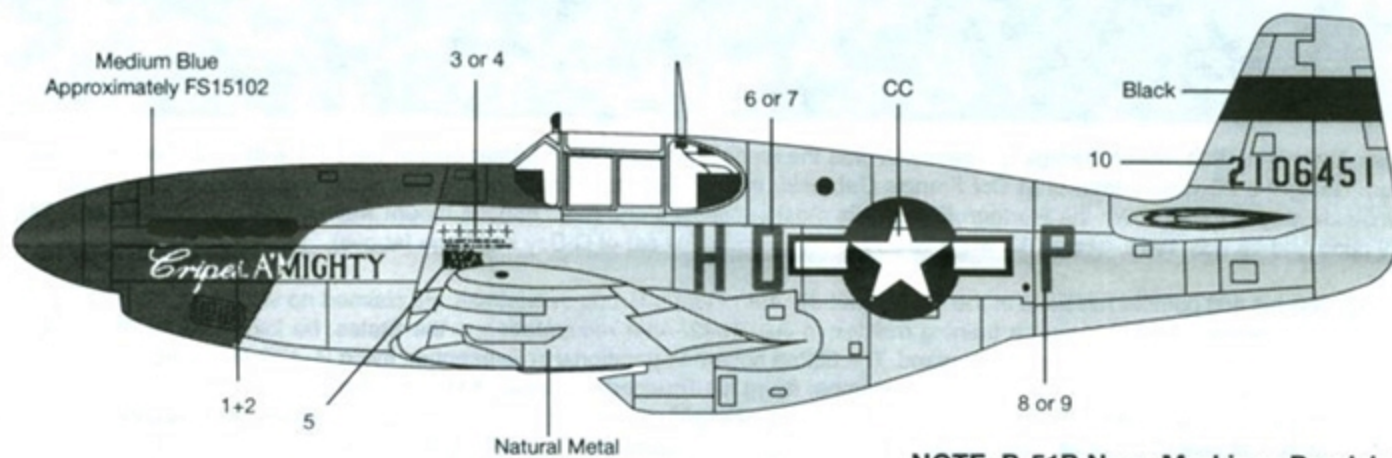
B P-40E-CU 41-5509 *Tarheel* 9th FS, 49th FG Darwin, Australia June-July 1942

A colorful dragon, symbolic of the 9th FS Dragon Flight led by Captain Joseph Kruzal, replaced the name *Tarheel* on the right nose in June 1942. The balance of the markings remained unchanged from April/May.



C P-51B-10-NA 42-106451 *Cripes A'Mighty* 487th FS, 352nd FG Bodney, England April-June 1944

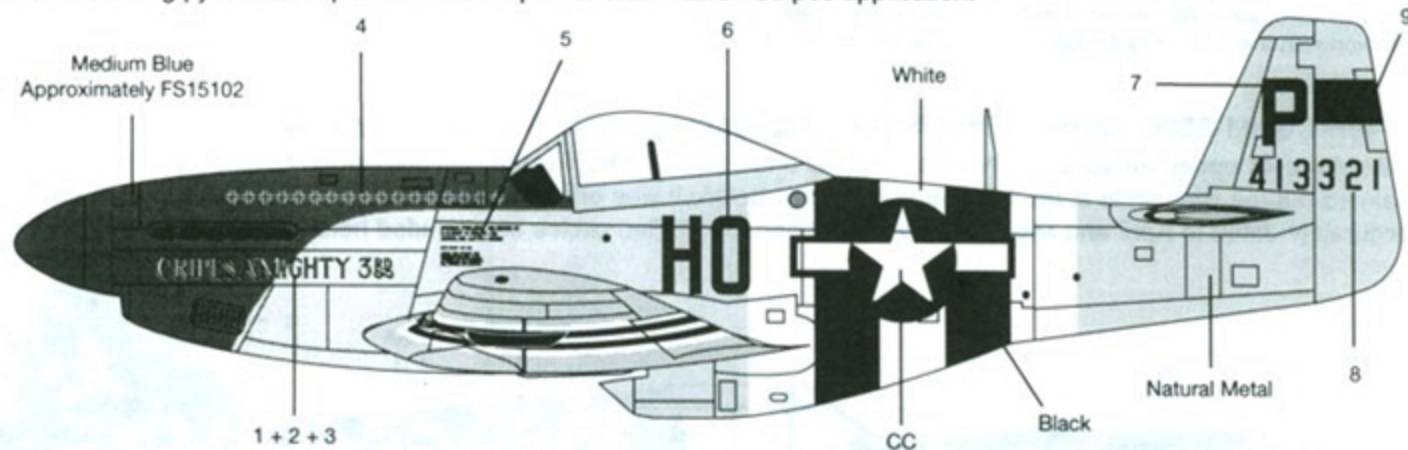
Overall Natural Metal Finish with Medium Blue 352nd FG nose blaze. Black ETO ID bands carried on tail surfaces only. A single row of crosses under the left windscreen (five displayed between 13 and 30 April). Thirteen crosses are provided. The centers of the crosses and code letters appear to be the same shade as the nose blaze in photos but the ground crew remembers them as Black. Both color options are provided. We could find no photos of the P-51B nose markings so those given are based on squadron practice and the ground crew's memory 50+ years later. Invasion Stripes were added on 5/6 June 1944, but we could find no photos of *Cripes the Second* with them. Codes on the right side read P HO.



NOTE: P-51B Nose Markings Provisional

D P-51D-5-NA 44-13321 *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* 487th FS, 352nd FG Bodney, England June-July 1944

Overall Natural Metal Finish with the 352nd FG Medium Blue nose blaze. Full Invasion Stripes and Black ETO ID bands on all tail surfaces were carried. Shown after Preddy's strafing victory of 29 June 1944, *Cripes Third* displayed 17 White crosses in a single row forward of the windscreen. Wing pylons were painted Black a part of the Invasion Stripes application.



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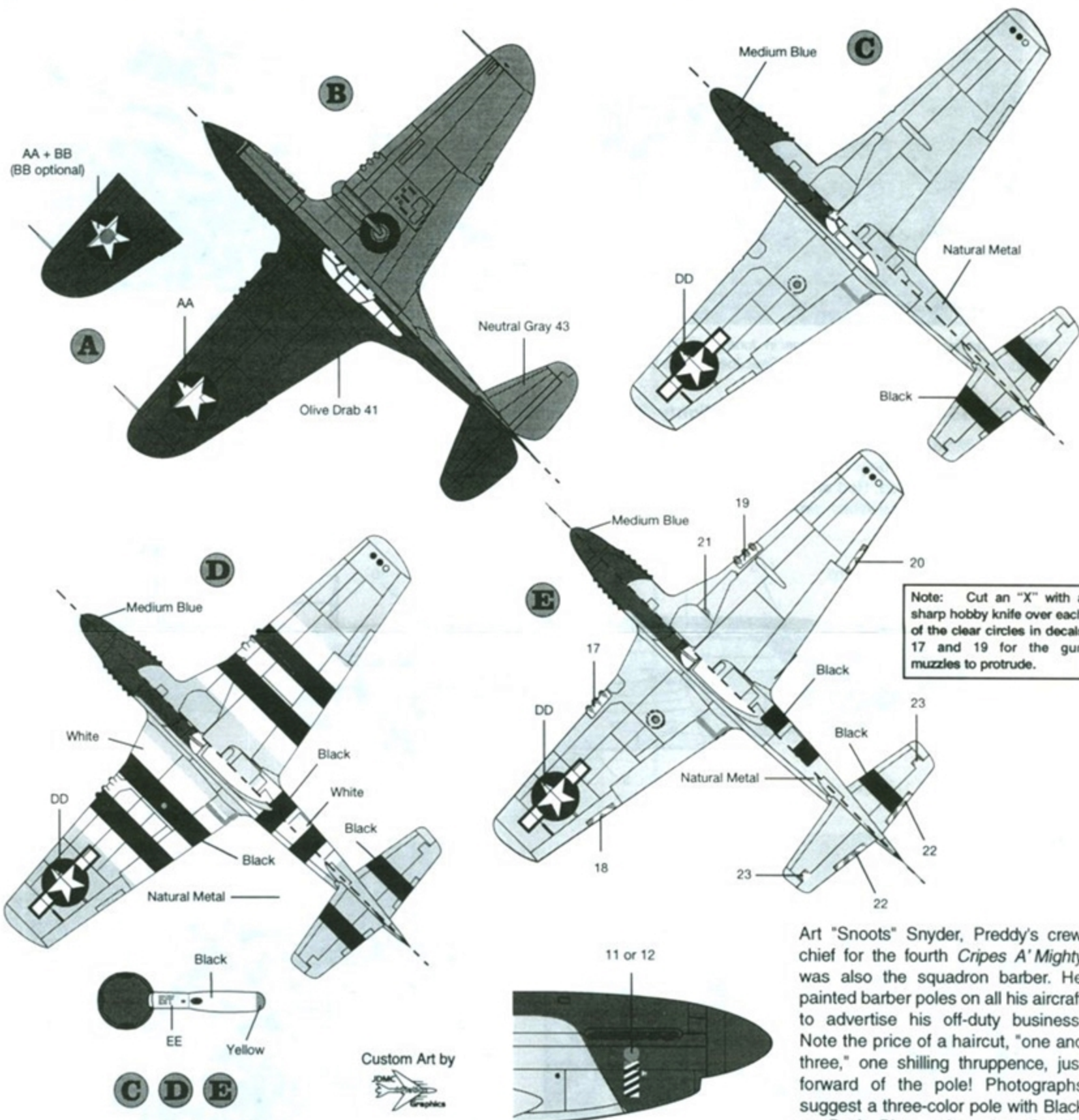
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Recommended 1/48 Scale Kits:

Otaki/Arii, Revell P-40E
 Accurate Miniatures, Monogram, Tamiya P-51B
 Hasegawa, Monogram, Tamiya P-51D



Art "Snoots" Snyder, Preddy's crew chief for the fourth *Cripes A' Mighty* was also the squadron barber. He painted barber poles on all his aircraft to advertise his off-duty business. Note the price of a haircut, "one and three," one shilling thruppence, just forward of the pole! Photographs suggest a three-color pole with Black or Dark Blue stripes but Snyder remembers it with Red stripes only. Both options are provided for the modeler to choose.

Authenticity Guarantee!

All Three Guys Replicas Decals are based on original photographs, technical descriptions and/or first person accounts depicting all markings. This ensures when you purchase any Three Guys Replicas Decal Sheet you are buying the most accurate decals possible.

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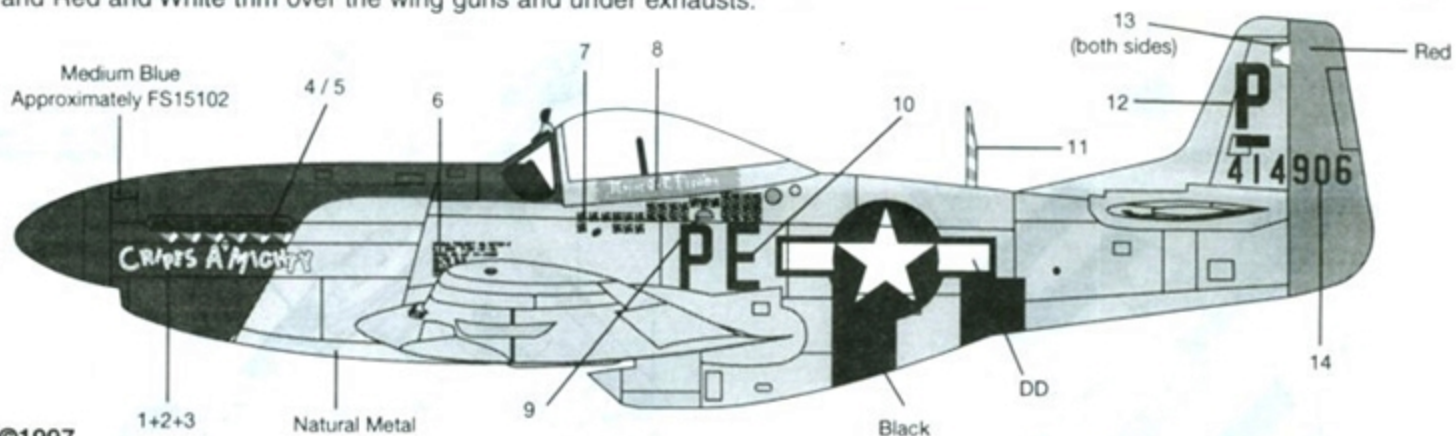
Preddy standing by the nose of *Tarheel* in June 1942. The fire-breathing dragon was carried by each Warhawk in Capt Joe Kruzef's Dragon Flight.



The right side of the second *Cripes A'Mighty*. Although the codes appear to be the same shade as the Blue nose blaze, the crew chief definitely remembers them as Black. A set of Blue codes and crosses is included for the non-believers.

E P-51D-15-NA 44-14906 *Cripes A'Mighty* 328th FS, 352nd FG Asch, Belgium December 1944

Natural Metal Finish with 352nd FG Medium Blue nose blaze and 328th FS Red rudder. Black ID stripes applied under the fuselage and horizontal tail only. Note the twin rear view mirrors on the windscreen and the absence of air breather plates under the nose. 33 swastikas displayed. Red and White stripes on the antenna mast, trim tabs and balance horns, Red semicircles on each main gear cover, and Red and White trim over the wing guns and under exhausts.



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Note: Paint antenna mast White before applying Decal #11



Cripes Third after the 29 June 1944 mission. Note the Invasion Stripes on top of the wing, the air breather plate, and the absence of the ground crew names forward of the wing root.



No photographs of the "Snyderized" *Cripes* are known to exist. Pictured above is *Chub A Luk*, Snoots Snyder's charge after *Cripes* was lost. The markings were virtually identical to the last ones carried by Preddy's fourth *Cripes A'Mighty*.

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