



The P-47 Thunderbolt was classed with the P-51 Mustang as the greatest fighters of the AAF during WWII. It was first flown on May 6, 1941 as a high altitude fighter and an improved version over the P-43 Lancer. The hefty fuselage and large elliptical wings personalize this fighter. Huge slotted flaps were necessary to alleviate the landing speed of this heavy fighter. The most favorite model was the bubble canopied "D" model and 12,602 of these were completed. Because of its weight and tremendous power, the P-47 could dive at phenominal speeds and was used extensively as a dive bomber at the latter part of the war.

