

LIMITED EDITION! CED48117

Tomahawk!

P-40CU & H81A-2



American Volunteer Group (AVG)
"Flying Tigers" & 35th PS



H-81A, Tom Haywood, 3rd Pursuit Squadron A.V.G.

H-81A, "Tex" Hill, 1st Pursuit Squadron A.V.G.



H-81A, Charles Bond, 1st Pursuit Squadron A.V.G.



P-40CU, 35th PS, 8th PG



Recommended kits:

1/48: Hobbycraft P-40B/C
Monogram P-40B
1/72: Minicraft P-40B/C

**Cutting
Edge**

MODELWORKS

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USA

Hawk 81A-2
Tom Haywood
3rd Pursuit Squadron AVG



Hawk 81A-2
"Tex" Hill
2nd Pursuit Squadron AVG



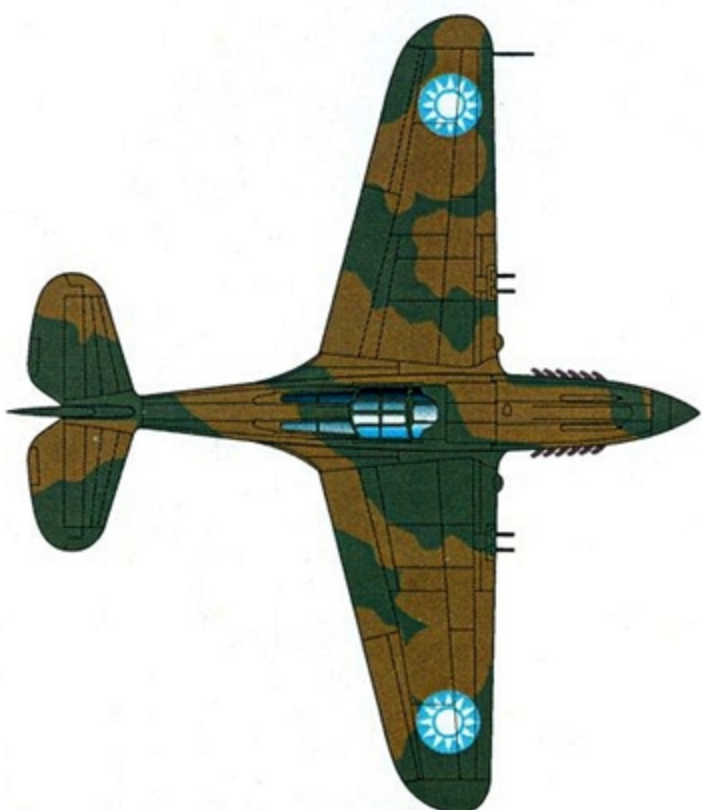
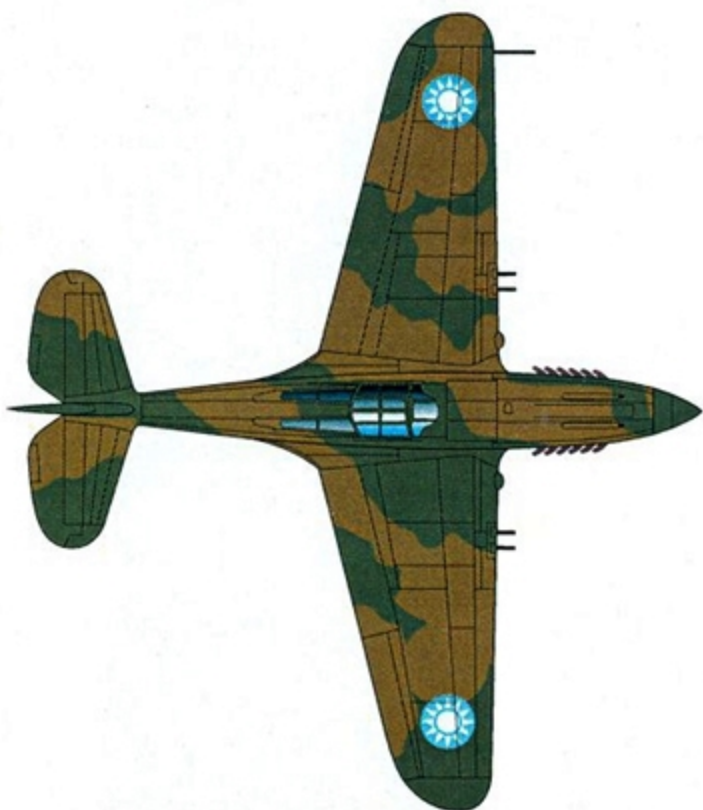
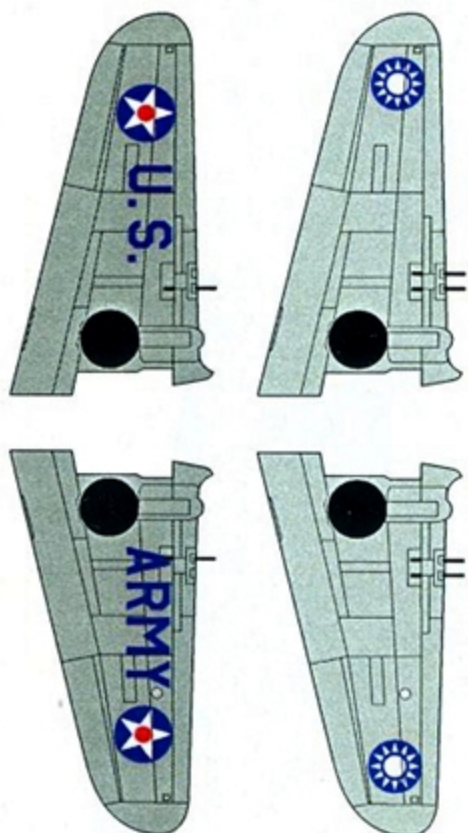
Hawk 81A-2
Charles Bond
1st Pursuit Squadron AVG



P-40 (P-40CU)
35th PS, 8th Pursuit Group
Mitchel Field, NY, 1941



Most aircraft of this group had the "Mitchel Field" name painted below the windscreen. #54 did NOT have this legend at the time our photos were taken, but it could likely have been applied at a different time in its career.



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Notes on Specific Aircraft

All A.V.G. aircraft

- We know you're saying "what's up with all these Chinese roundels?". Well, here at Cutting Edge we believe in giving you as many and as realistic marking options as possible. First, the blue color used for the roundels and the stripes faded VERY quickly in the field. This is why we've included both dark and light (faded) variations for each marking. The lower wing roundel rarely faded, so we suggest using the dark roundels. For the upper wing, either color is appropriate, but we suggest the lighter roundels because most photos show these to be quite faded unless they had been recently applied. As for size, the small roundels were always used on the lower wing, and usually for the top. There is not much reference supporting the application of a larger roundel. Some people claim that they can tell a larger roundel was applied from a few of the available photos, but these have extensive foreshortening and we believe it may be an optical illusion. In any case, we've included them to make this sheet as complete as possible.
- Color Scheme: The Hawk H-81As of the A.V.G. were finished in RAF Dark Earth, Dark Green and either Light Gray or Sky (respected researchers are divided on this). The upper surface pattern was applied using rubber templates resulting in a fairly hard edged camouflage similar to other RAF fighters. For a quick, easy, and accurate way of masking the camouflage pattern, use Cutting Edge's **BlackMagic™** paint masking sets for RAF/AVG Tomahawks (CEBM48153 for the 1/48 Hobbcraft kit or CEBM48154 for the 1/48 Monogram kit).

AVG White 49 P-8133

- P-8133 was originally flown by Frank Swartz, but after his death was flown by Tom Haywood. Haywood, a former USMC pilot, had the USMC bulldog applied to both sides of his fuselage. The remnants of an earlier 'flying tiger' decal remain on the port side only, and a freshly applied decal was applied just aft of this on both sides. The second decal, the bulldog, and Haywood's name in front of the cockpit appear to have been applied over a fresh coat of Dark Green. The area around the first 'flying tiger' decal still shows where varnish had been applied to the original decal in an attempt to keep it from peeling off during flight.

AVG White 48 P-8134

- P-8134 was flown by Tex Hill. The Panda bear was applied to the port side only. Unfortunately, the only known photo of Hill's aircraft doesn't show the shark mouth, so we drew several examples and asked him which was closest—he chose the example shown on our decal. He also approved the remainder of our artwork.

AVG White 5 P-8178

- Photos of this aircraft are unfortunately somewhat blurred; the serial number show best matches the photos.
- During an interview with Tom Tullis, Charlie Bond commented that his aircraft had kill markings applied, but that he knew of no photos showing these. We've included markings consistent with other known 1st. P.S. aircraft's kill markings as an additional option for the modeler. Bond had 9 1/2 kills, so it's possible 9, 9.5, or 10 were shown on the left side of the aircraft.

USAAC Yellow 54/8P

- Color Scheme: Olive Drab over Neutral Gray. Insignia Yellow I.D. band on nose.

- Many other planes from this unit had the words "Mitchel Field" (NOT a misspelling—it was NOT named after Bill Mitchell!) under the windscreen, so we've provided them in case they were also applied to this plane at a different time in its life.
- We've provided the correct Insignia Blue "U.S. ARMY" markings for the wing undersides. It should by now be well known that these were always Insignia Blue and not black; for some reason the kit manufacturers and some aftermarket decal companies insist on providing them as black letters.
- The P-40-CU differed from the P-40B/C in that the P-40-CU had only one .30 caliber gun in each wing (in the inboard positions). The wing guns typically had solid external blast tubes with no cooling holes. It also did not have provisions for a belly drop tank or bomb.

Applying the Decals

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model. Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

Bibliography

Special thanks to Charlie Bond and David Lee "Tex" Hill

Original home movie film

Original photos

Shark's Teeth Nose Art by Jeff Ethell, Motorbooks, 1992

P-40 in WWII Color by Jeff Ethell, Motorbooks, 1994

Wings of Fame #9, Airtime Publishing, 1997.

Pictorial History of the Flying Tigers by Larry M. Pistole, Moss Publications, 1981.

Various Air Classic Articles

Note: While many of our reference photos are available in existing publications, Cutting Edge prefers to track down original copies of the photos whenever possible to make our marking and camouflage interpretations as accurate as possible.