

Lifelike Decals

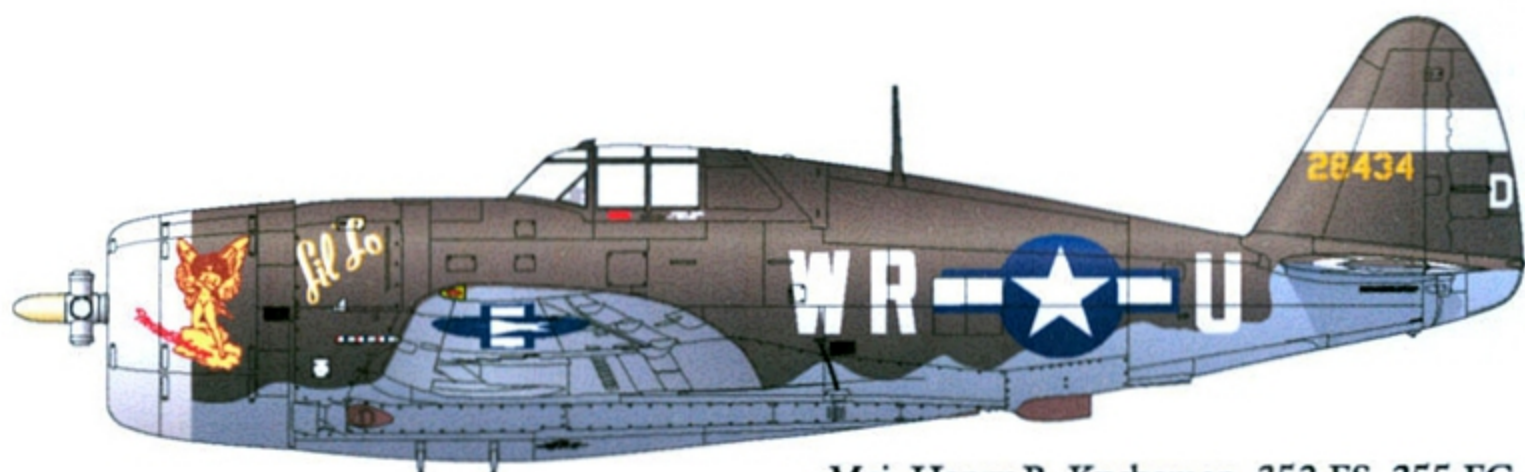
Limited Edition!

48-009

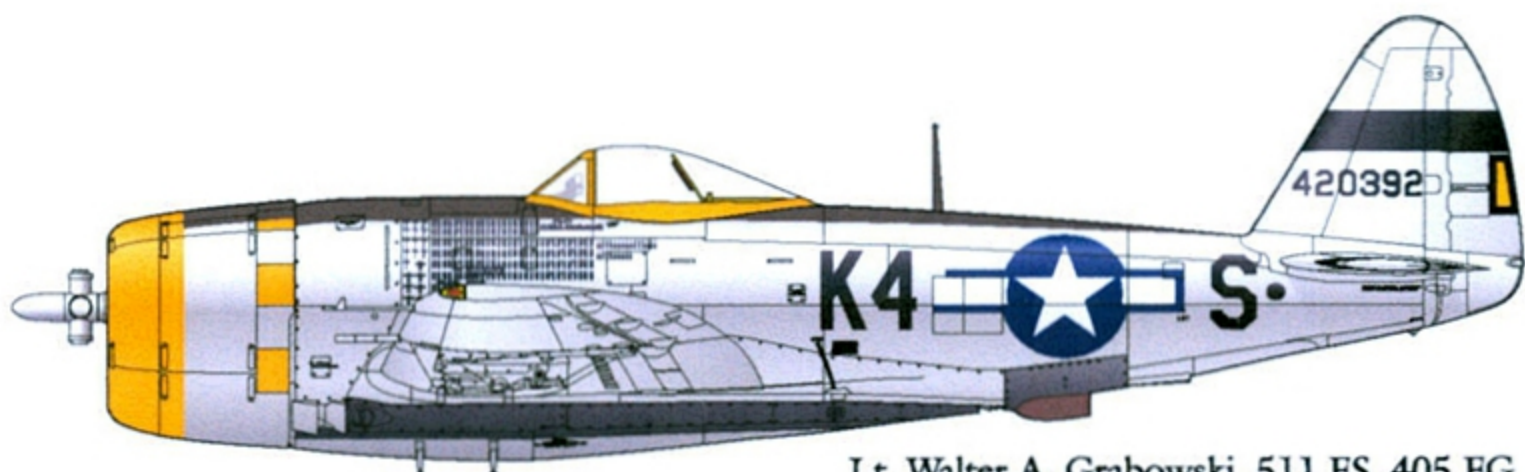
Republic P-47D Thunderbolt Part 2



Lt. 'Ike' Davis, 366 FS, 358 FG



Maj. Henry B. Kucheman, 353 FS, 355 FG



Lt. Walter A. Grabowski, 511 FS, 405 FG

Recommended kits: Tamiya P-47 Razorback (WR-U) & Bubbletop (K4-S)
Hasegawa P-47D-30/40 (IA-N)

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

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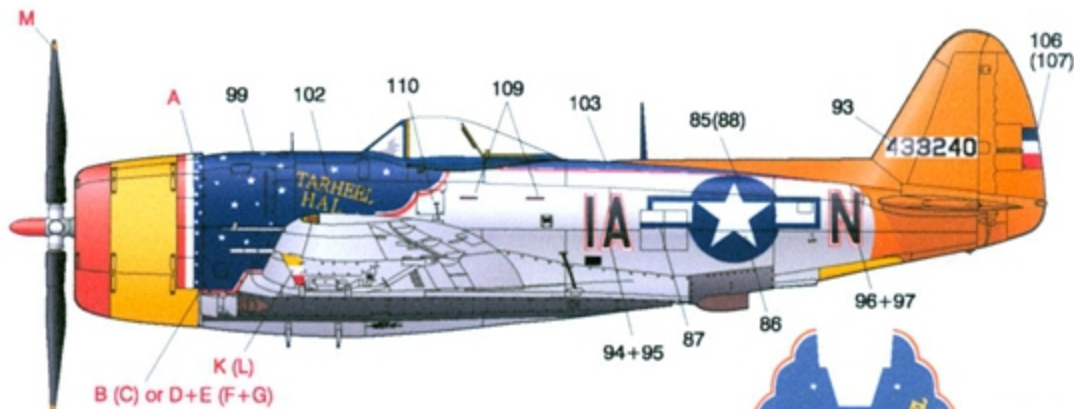
<http://lifelikedecals.sakura.ne.jp>

Republic P-47D Thunderbolt Part 2

A/C #1

P-47D-30-RA, 44-33240, flown by Lt. 'Ike' Davis of 366FS, 358FG, probably May 1945, Sandhofen/Germany.

This is a well-known A/C of "Orange Tail" unit with gaudy marking, and its photos are shown in ref. 1, 2 (both in color), 3 (b/w) and on some website (now closed). The photo in ref. 2 and on the website is large enough to define the details of its markings. Noteworthy features of its marking are (1) red and white outline of the A/C code and dark blue area on the nose and top decking, (2) white shadow on "TARHEEL HAL" (which is on the left side only), (3) small white stars on the dark blue band of cowl flaps, (4) dark blue paint on the canopy/windshield frame, (5) tri-color band on the front of pylons and (6) yellow paint on the tail wheel cover. We found the angular edging of white/red outline in front of the wing root. It is rather difficult to precisely reproduce this with decal, but by cutting off the indicated portion of mark 99



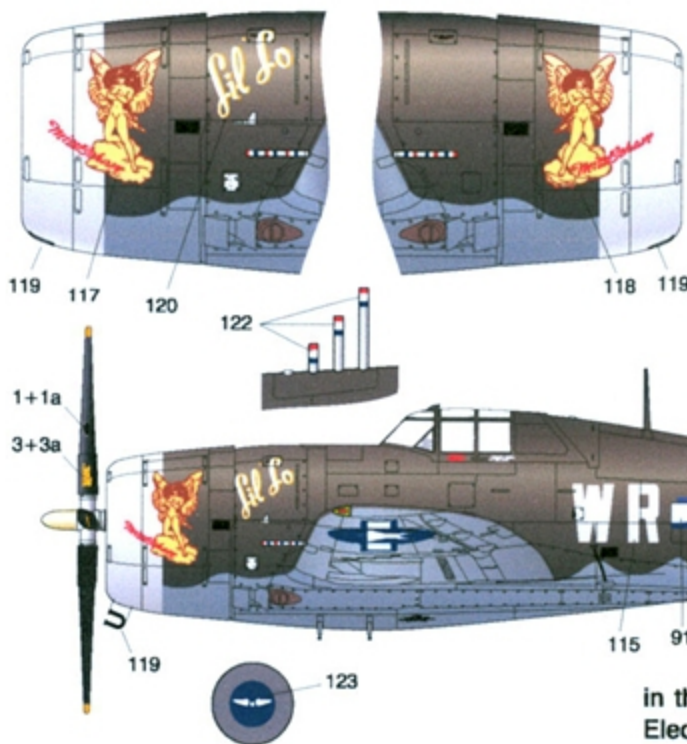
and replacing it with mark B/C (or D+E/F+G and painting the cut-off darkares) we hope modelers can reproduce it. Propeller hub of this A/C is painted red. It is fitted with a Curtiss Paddle Blade propeller. Please note that stencils on propellers are lacking. It is noteworthy that yellow paint on nose is completely matt, while dark blue paint is semi-glossy and red paint glossy.



A/C #2

P-47D-5-RE, 42-8434, flown by Maj. Henry B. Kucheman of 354FS, 355FG, early 1944, Steeple Morden/England.

This is another well-known A/C with the artistic nose art of Arthur De Costa, the 355th FG artist, but has not been put on decal before. Its left and right side full view are shown by the two photos in ref. 4. The details of "Miss Behave" nose art are different on either side. Close-up photos of the right side nose art are shown in ref. 5, 6 (both in color), 7 and 8. Though the same color photo is reproduced in ref. 5 and 6, we think that of ref. 6 is too much blue tinted, although it is of wider scope to show the three colored band on wing guns as well as national insignia on lower left wing. Close-up photos of the left side nose art are shown in ref. 5, 9, 10 and 11. Another photo in ref. 10 shows a marking on the wheel hub. "Lil Lo" is added at later stage in white with yellow shadow (photo in ref. 11). There are small white letters below cockpit on both sides, but we do not know what they are, so did not include them



low shadow (photo in ref. 11). There are small white letters below cockpit on both sides, but we do not know what they are, so did not include them

in this sheet. It is fitted with a Curtiss Electric propeller. This A/C was later transferred to the 328th FS/352nd FG (ref. 12), but was lost on April 9, 1944 by enemy fighters. Major Kucheman later flew P-51s (WR-U), also named "Miss Behave" and "Lil Lo", but they did not carry nose art.

A/C #3

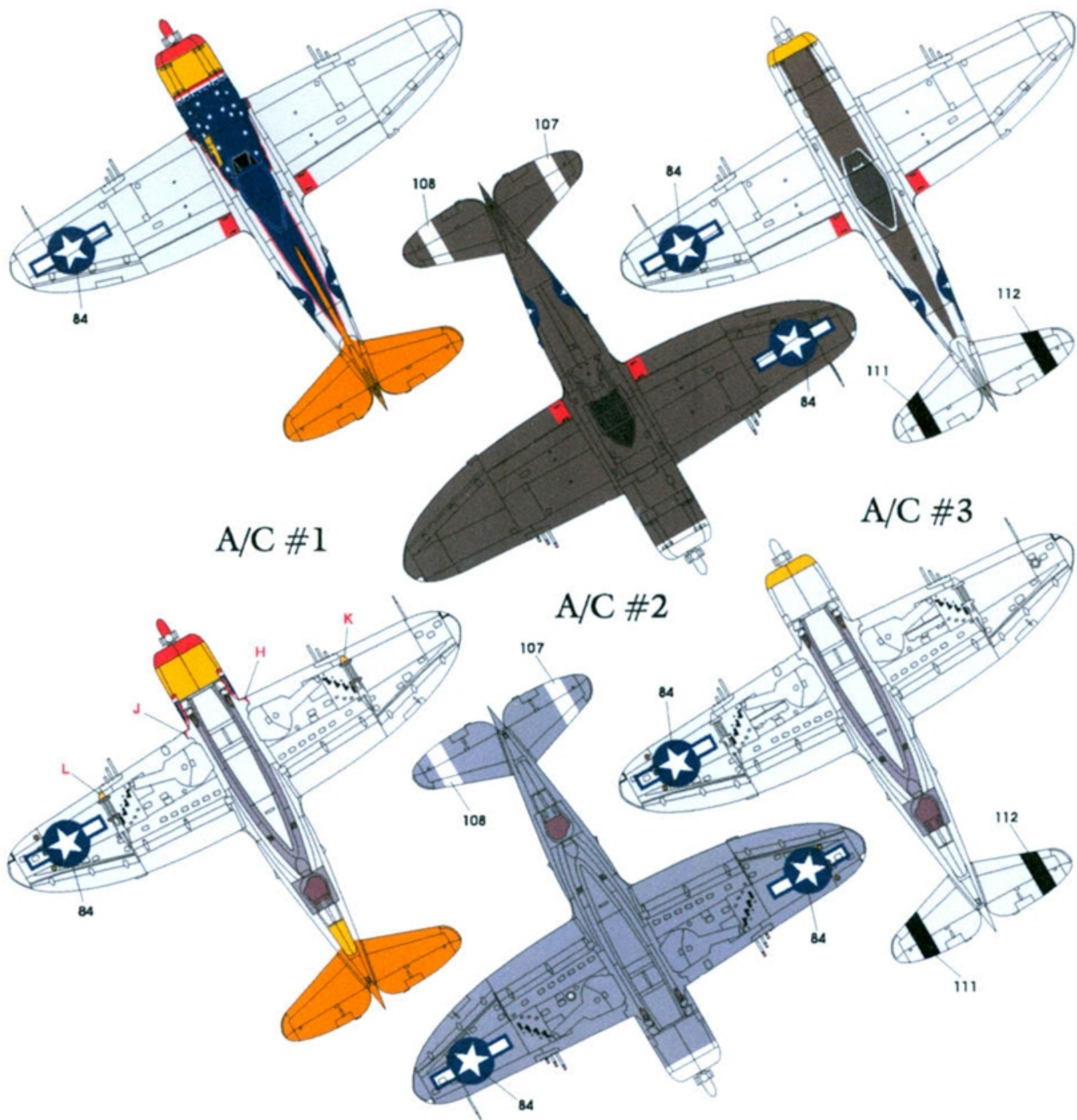
P-47D-30-RE, 44-20392, flown by Lt. Walter A. Grabowski of 511FS, 405FG, May 1945, Kitzingen/Germany.

There is only one photo of Grabowski's bubbletop Thunderbolt, and it is shown in ref. 13, 14 and 15. It takes the typical marking of 511th FS with yellow nose, canopy frame and black outlined yellow trim tab as well as black horizontal tail band and black dot behind A/C code. We can not be sure how the cowl flaps have been painted, but we think it is alternately



painted in yellow as with his earlier A/C. It carried 167 fighter-bomber missions (bomb), 24 fighter sweeps

(broom), 13 top cover missions (umbrella) and 12 other sorties (fighter silhouette). As the propeller is out of photo, we cannot be sure which type of propeller it had.



A/C #1

A/C #3

A/C #2

References

- (1) The Ninth Air Force in Color (R. Freeman, Arms & Armor Press)
- (2) Orange Tails, The Story of the 358th Fighter Group and Ancillary Units (privately published by Mr. L. D. Volkmer, 1996)
- (3) Thunderbolt, the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt in the European Theater (E. McDowell, Squadron Signal)
- (4) Aces and Wingmen II, vol. 2 (W. Hess, Aviation USK)
- (5) Steeple Morden Strafers 1943-45 (K Wells, East Anglia Books)
- (6) The Mighty Eighth, The Colour Record (R. Freeman, Cassell & Co.)
- (7) Wimpys to Mustangs, A pictorial History of Steeple Morden Airfield 1940-45 (K. Wells, East Anglia Books)
- (8) The History of Aircraft Nose Art, WWI to Today (J. Ethell and C. Simonsen, Motorbooks)
- (9) Aces and Wingmen II vol. 1 (D Morris, Aviation USK)
- (10) Angels, Bulldogs & Dragons, the 355th Fighter Group in World War II (B. Marshall, Champlin Fighter Museum)
- (11) Lion in the Sky (J. Scutts, P. Stephens Books)
- (12) American Eagles, P-47 Thunderbolt units of the Eighth Air Force (R. Freeman, Classic Publication)
- (13) Aces, Pilots & Aircraft of the 9th, 12th & 15th USAAF (D. Weatherill, Kookaburra Technical Publications)
- (14) AirFoil #5 (AirFoil Publications)
- (15) Flying Scoreboards (E. McDowell, Squadron Signal)