

## 1/144SCALE BOEING C-97G STRATOFREIGHTER



One of the most important weapons of World War II was the great Boeing B-29 Superfortress. By the end of the war, this famous bomber not only had a reputation for reliability, but it was recognized as a potential foundation for a modern passenger airliner. But its first appearance was in the role of a heavy cargo transporter for the U.S. Army Air Corps. In a manner similar to the conversion by Boeing of the famed B-17 Flying Fortress into the futuristic Stratoliner, the B-29 design was modified by adding a large cargo deck over the main fuselage. This gave the new transport a unique "double-bubble" configuration and provided a capacious cargo compartment that could hold more than ten tons of equipment or nearly 100 troops.

Designated YC-97, the first one of three flew on November 9, 1944. Two months later, it set a speed record for transports by flying non-stop from Seattle to Washington D.C. in 6 hours and 3 minutes, a distance of 3,323 miles, while carrying 20,000 lbs of cargo. The YC-97A differed from the prototypes in several respects. It used the wings, engines and tail surfaces of the B-50 Superfortress and set the pattern for the remaining C-97 production.

The versatility of the C-97 was great and provided the basis for the KC-97 Stratotanker series. The C-97G was converted from the KC-97G by removal of the In flight Refueling tanks and related equipment. In 1963/4, 135 KC-97Gs were converted and delivered to the Air National Guard for use as cargo transports.

The C-97G could carry 96 troops, 69 stretchers and 4 crew. It was powered by four Pratt & Whitney R-4360 engines with 3,500 hp each. Maximum speed was 375 mph at 30,200 feet. It had a range of 4,300 miles.

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