

PBY-4 CATALINA

There were only 33 **PBY-4 Catalinas** manufactured, but their battle history in the Philippines as VP-101 and VP-102 remains legendary. They were called upon to seek and locate the enemy over the vast spaces of the Pacific. Their long range and extended flight time at cruising speeds enabled them to literally stand watch while looking for elements of the Japanese fleet.

In addition, the acute shortage of aircraft in the Philippines after the Japanese invasion caused the **Catalinas** to be pressed into service as bombers, strafers and mine-laying duties. If that were not enough, the remaining **Catalinas** were always in demand to transport high-ranking officers from one theater to another. It cannot be documented, but it more than likely that the subject of this kit was the airplane that took *General MacArthur* from the Philippines to Australia.

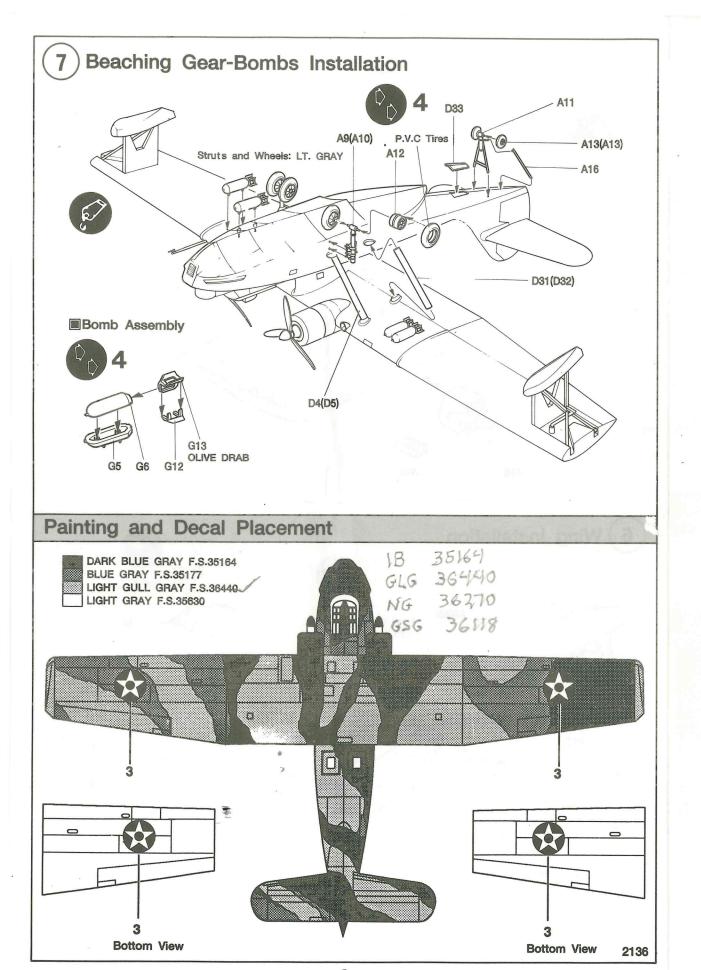
When the war broke out, the camouflage paint schemes were applied in the field with whatever paint could be found. As a result there are no specifications for the paint jobs, but many photographs clearly illustrate the general type of patterns and colors used.

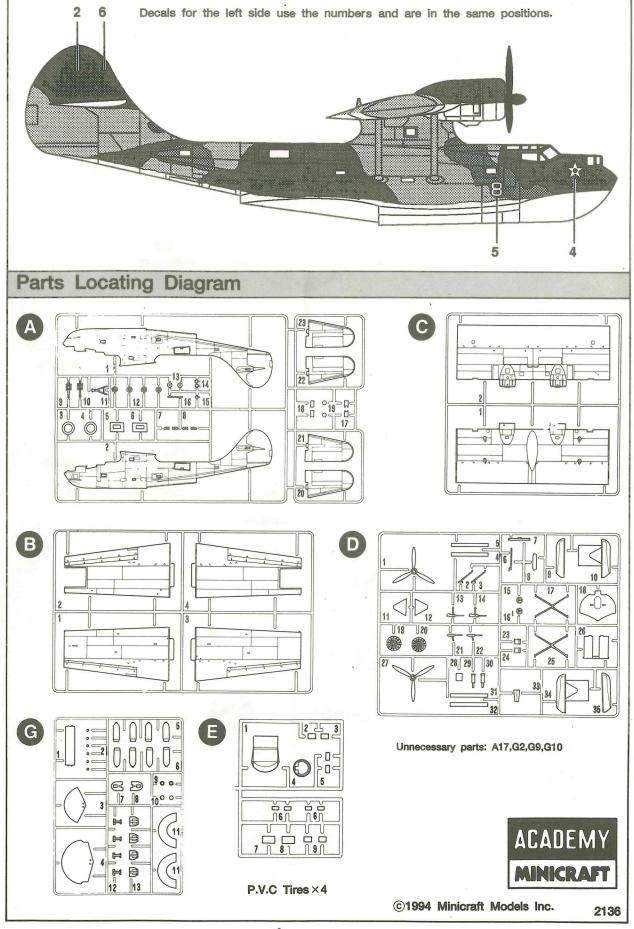
It should be noted that the first group of **PBY-4 Catalinas** made the first Transpacific deployment in 1939 by way of Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island and Guam before arriving in Manila where they became VP-21.

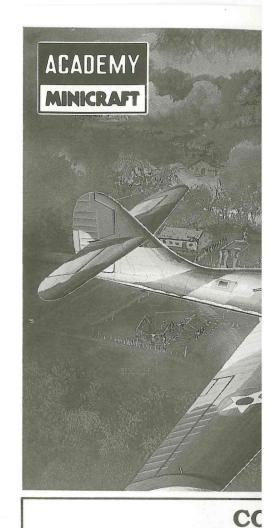
With more powerful P&W R-1830 engines rated 1050 horsepower, the PBY-4 still only had a top speed at 12,000 feet of 197 miles per hour. Old aviators who flew these planes often joked that they took off at 90 knots, cruised at 90 knots and landed at 90 knots.

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