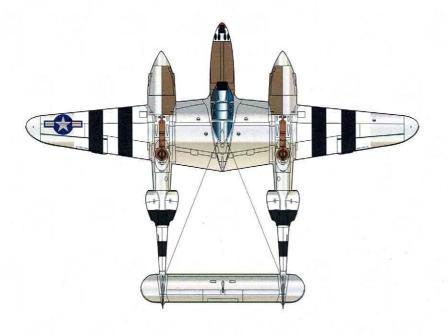
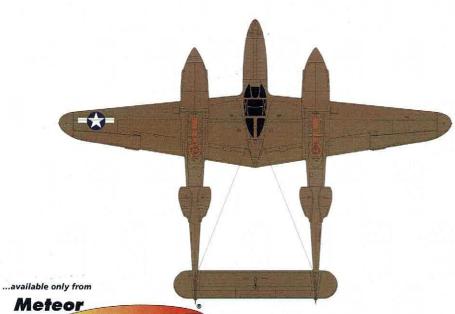


Fork-tailed Beauties Part 1

Special thanks to "Eagle Eye" Mike Lampros!





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Thoughts of Midnite

- The 431st Fighter Squadron was based at Port Moresby from 8 August 1943 to 3 October 1943. They then
 moved to Dobodura, New Guinea, from 14 August 1943 to 26 March 1944.
- In our photos, only the '1' on the left side nose had a black outline. The photos may have been taken before an
 outline was added to the '20'.
- Note the heavy staining and overpainting along the panel lines on the nose. This was presumably carried over to most panel lines on the aircraft, making this a very well-worn ship. Have fun with the weathering!
- We do not know how the tail numbers or the right hand nose number looked. Enough decals are supplied for
 all possibilities in case additional photos are discovered. The markings supplied come from a detailed study of
 the other aircraft in the squadron and group at the same time, which shows that their markings were
 surprisingly consistent. Please contact us if you have additional photographic information on this aircraft.
- You will notice the "t" in "Midnite" does not have a crossbar on our decal, making the word "Midnile!" This is because the original photo does not show a crossbar on the letter "t." We've adjusted the photo in Photoshop in the hopes of showing a faint crossbar, but it just isn't there. If you're more comfortable with a crossbar, paint it in with a fine brush and Insignia Yellow paint.

Moonlight Cock-Tail

- Since there are no known photos of the right side of the nose and many photos of the left side, we do not believe the artwork was also put on the right side.
- This ship is depicted as of early Summer 1944, at which time full D-Day stripes were applied. Presumably later
 the stripes were removed from the topsides of the wings and booms. Although the unit was based in England
 at the time depicted in our decals, in August 1944 they moved to the Continent, initially to France, by which
 time the D-Day stripes were almost certainly removed from the top of the aircraft.
- The pilot, Clark R. "Doc" Livingston, was a replacement pilot who came to the 392nd Fighter Squadron in May 1944. He was regarded as a steady and dependable leader with an amazing ability to avoid flak and still find choice targets.
- A Neutral Gray replacement panel was fitted to the bottom of the right engine nacelle at some point, as clearly shown in photos.
- A black rectangle was painted on the top front of the nose. It can be clearly seen in the photo included in the
 instructions. Mask and paint it using any gloss black paint.
- The red paint on the nose cap streaked rearward—a very unusual occurrence! Add the red streaks by brush
 after the nose number decals are applied.
- The name "Carol" was painted on the outboard side of the left engine nacelle. By the time the name was painted on, the aluminum was fairly dirty and oxidized, and the painter carefully cleaned the area underneath the name down to clean, bright metal. We recommend you paint this area with chrome paint, then apply the enclosed BlackMagic™ mask. Paint the remainder of the plane as desired, then remove the BlackMagic™ mask and apply the decal over the bright area.

Applying the Specialty Nose Art

PYN-up Decals has supplied you with the thinnest possible decal material to help make your model a true
masterpiece. Considerable care is required when handling these nose art decals. After applying the white
background decal from the main decal sheet and LETTING IT THOROUGHLY DRY, carefully trim around the nose
art decal to separate it from the rest of the paper.

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