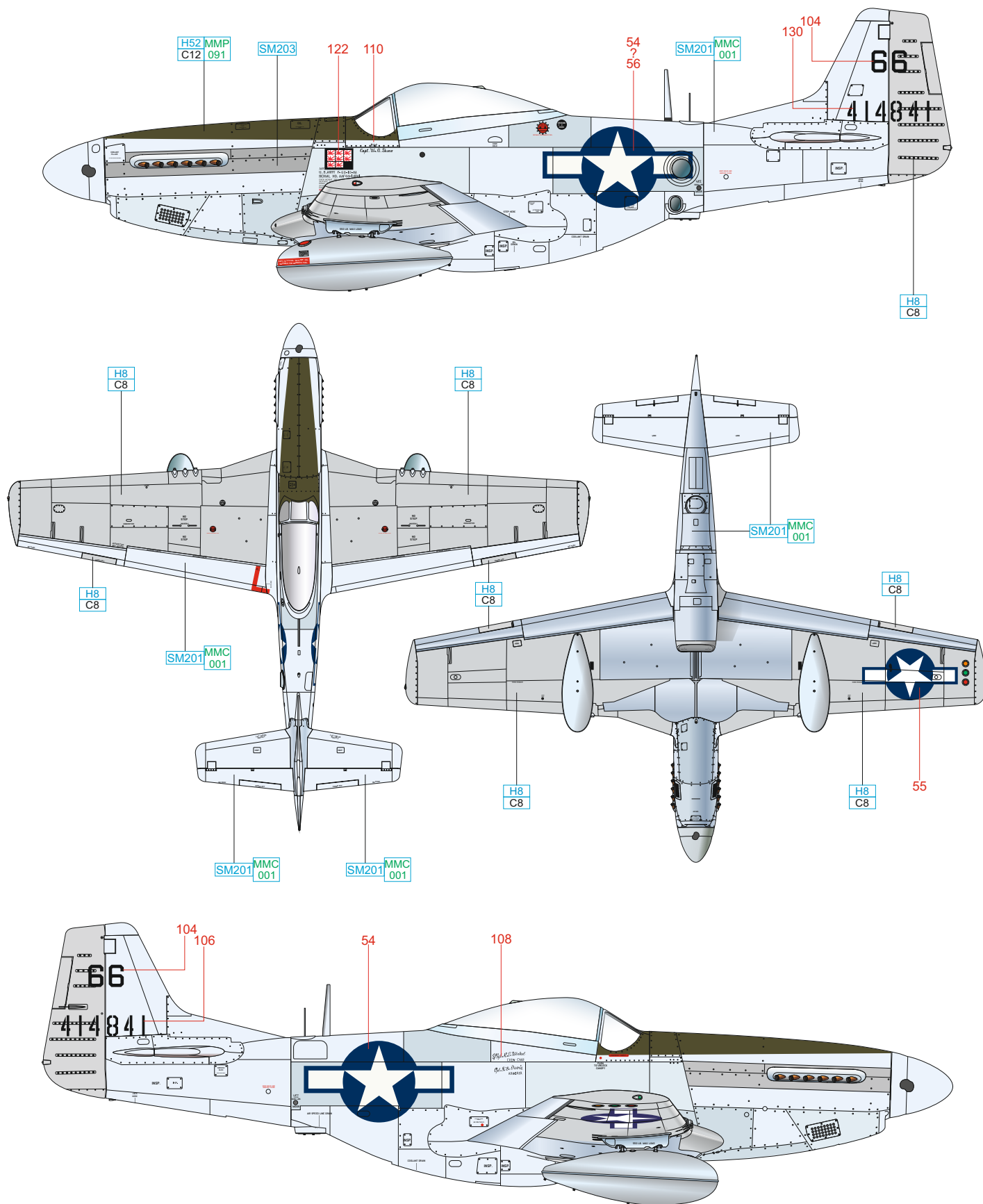


# F-6D, 44-14841, flown by Capt. William A. Shomo, 82nd TRS, 71st TRG, Hill Field, Mindoro, the Philippines, mid January 1945

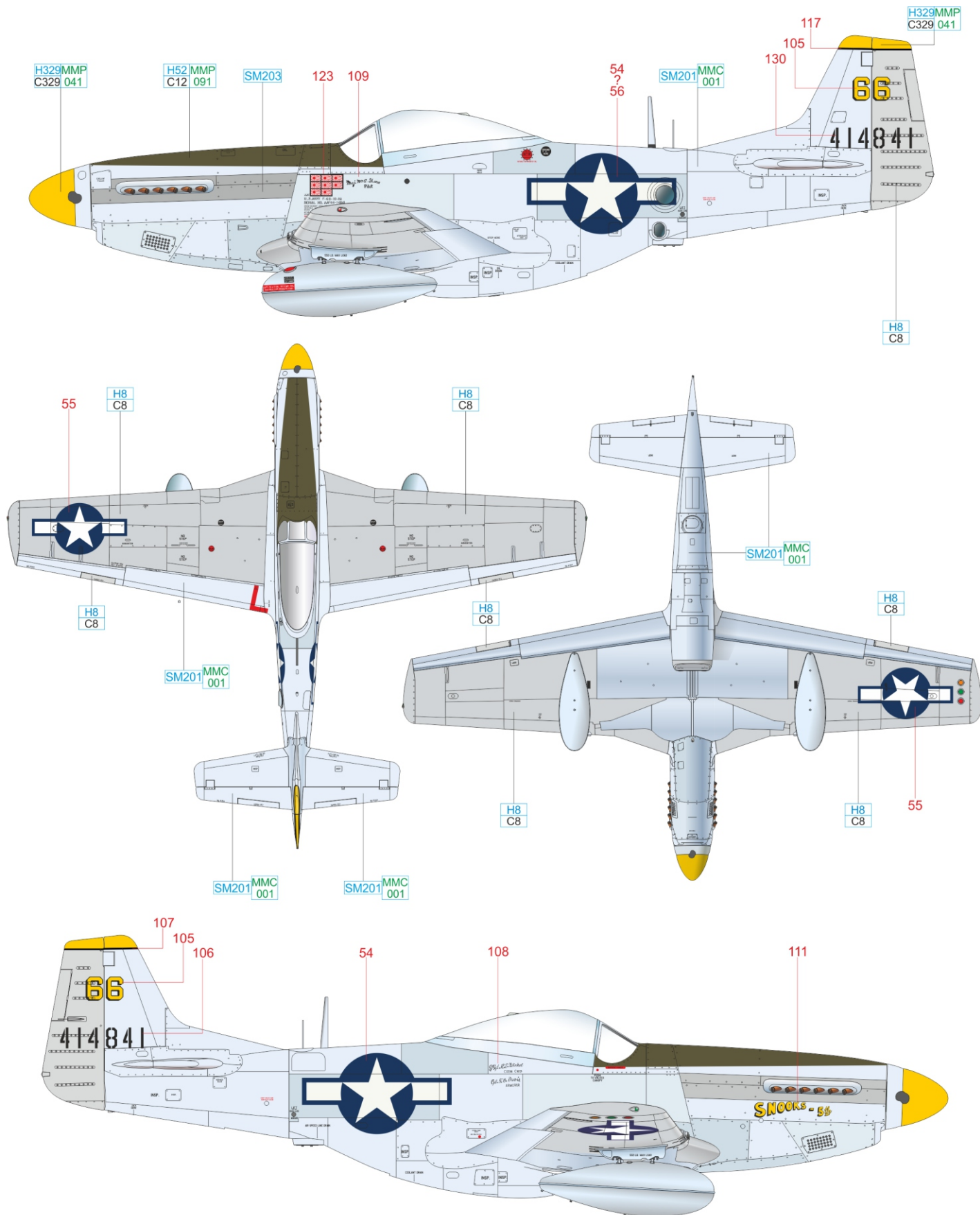
William Arthur Shomo was born on May 30th, 1918 in Jeanette, Pennsylvania, and joined the USAAC (United States Army Air Corps) in August 1941. After over a year of training, he was assigned to the 82nd TRS, flying the P-39 and P-40, with which he made his way to New Guinea. On October 1st, 1944, the unit was moved to the airfield at Morotai, located in the Maluku Islands. There, conversion training onto the F-6D was undertaken. On December 24th, 1944, Captain Shomo was named Commanding Officer of the squadron, and the unit was transferred to Mindoro in the Philippines. January 11th, 1945, became the most famous day of his career, when he downed seven Japanese aircraft, while his wingman Paul Lipscomb, got another three during the same mission. On June 17th, 1945, he passed his command on to Capt. Harlan White and returned to the United States. The end of the war did not signal the end of his career in the USAAF, and he didn't retire until 1968 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. William Shomo passed away on June 25th, 1990 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.



- OLIVE DRAB H52 MMP C12 091
- SUPER FINE SILVER SM201 MMC 001
- SUPER IRON SM203
- SILVER H8 C8

# F-6D, 44-14841, flown by Capt. William A. Shomo, 82nd TRS, 71st TRG, Lingayen, Luzon, the Philippines, February 1945

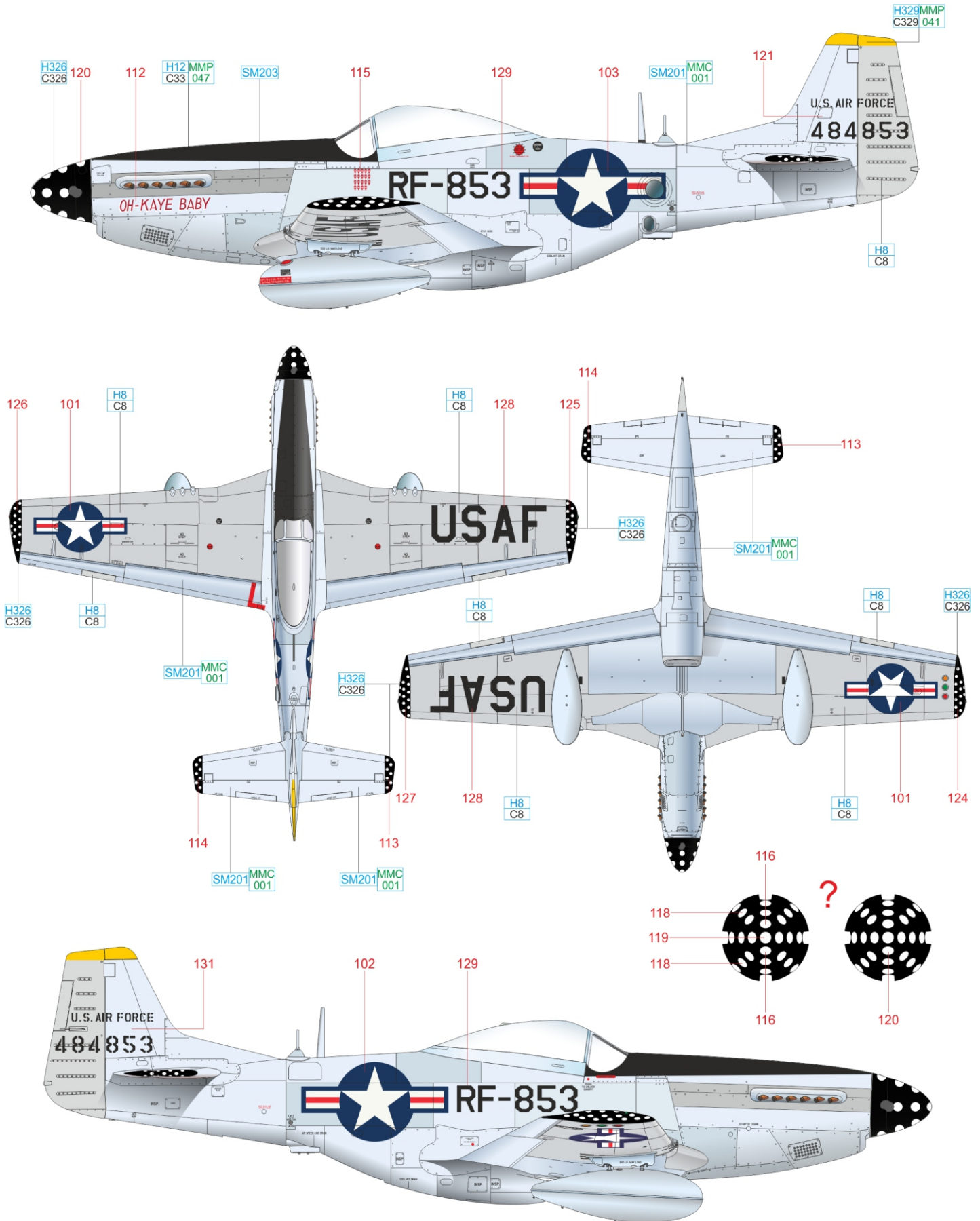
William Shomo christened his aircraft 'Snooks', along with their sequence number. 'Snooks 5th' was an F-6D-10 Mustang, built at Inglewood. After being transferred to the 82nd TRS, William Shomo took over the aircraft, and within the unit, it was coded as '66', with the inscription 'Snooks 5th' appearing on the engine cowl. With this aircraft, Capt. Shomo flew a mission on January 11th, 1945, during which he and his wingman flamed ten enemy aircraft (Shomo with seven of them, Lipscomb the other three), hastening the departure of the remaining Japanese pilots. For this success, William Shomo was awarded the Medal of Honor. The career of this airplane was not long, though. On March 5th, 1945, it was flown on a ground attack mission by 2ndLt. Huffman, who did not survive his attack on storage facilities near Cattagoaman. The wreck of the aircraft was located, and the pilot was laid to rest at an American cemetery in Manila.



- OLIVE DRAB
- H52 MMP C12 091
- SUPER FINE SILVER
- SM201 MMC 001
- SUPER IRON
- SM203
- SILVER
- H8 C8
- YELLOW
- H329MMP C329 041

# RF-51D-25, 44-84853, 45th TRS, 67th TRW, Kimpo AB, South Korea, 1952

On June 11th, 1948, the prefix of USAF aircraft were changed to 'F' (Fighter) from the previous 'P' (Pursuit). This included aircraft used for reconnaissance duties where the prefix became RF (Reconnaissance Fighter). From this point on, all F-6D and F-6K aircraft became RF-51s. The 45th TRS was activated on September 26th, 1950 at Itazuke in Japan, and was equipped with the RF-51. On December 27th, 1950, it was moved to Taegu in South Korea. From this air base (later from Kimpo), this unit flew combat missions over the course of the entire Korean War. The unit was re-equipped with the modern RF-80 in August, 1952.



- BLACK H12 MMP C33 047
- BLUE H326 C326
- SUPER FINE SILVER SM201 MMC 001
- SUPER IRON SM203
- SILVER H8 C8
- YELLOW H329 MMP C329 041