

BOEING B-17F FLYING FORTRESS

1/72 SCALE
112



Boeing's four-engined Flying Fortress was the first true strategic bomber to enter the Army Air Corps. When World War II broke out in Europe, only 23 of the big planes were in service. These were B-17B's, the first production version of the Fortress. The ferocity of the war soon revealed serious weaknesses in the design of the bomber, and the Boeing Company undertook a complete re-evaluation of the B-17.

On September 5, 1941, the B-17E took to the air. Virtually a new airplane, it displayed a new fuselage and tail along with greater armament and better performance. The first combat missions with the B-17E proved the excellence of the bomber and provisions were made to expand the production of the plane. Fortress assembly lines were established at Douglas and Vega, where the first models constructed were an improved model, the B-17F.

Externally, the main difference between the B-17E and F was the replacement of the framed bombardier's nose with a smooth bubble, and wide-blade propellers. Armament differed slightly between B-17F types built by Boeing, Douglas and Vega, but generally consisted of one or two .30 cal. guns in the nose, a pair of .50 cal. "cheek" guns, and two .50's each in the tail, lower ball, and forward dorsal turrets. One .50 was located on each side of the fuselage in waist positions. These guns were provided with a total of 4,130 rounds of ammunition. Add to this a maximum bomb load of 9,800 pounds and here indeed was a flying fortress!

On January 27, 1943, B-17F's of the 8th Air Force in England began their deep penetrating raids into Germany.

One of the most bizarre uses of the B-17F was in the role of a guided missile drone. Four war-weary Fortresses were specially modified and designated BQ-7. The entire top decking was removed from the fuselage; only the windshield remained. Behind this was an open cockpit, from which the pilots could quickly bail out. Inside the modified fuselage was no less than 10 tons of highly-explosive Torpex.

The worn-out bombers were equipped for radio-control operation. Vega Ventures were used as "mother ships" from which the flying bombs were controlled; and a P-38 flew escort, ready to shoot down the drone if it malfunctioned. And malfunction they did. The project, called Aphrodite, was terminated shortly after one of the ex-B-17F's plunged into the English countryside and excavated a 100 foot wide crater in the woods.

When production of the B-17F gave way to the later G model, 3,400 of the "F's" has been constructed.

CHARACTERISTICS:

DIMENSIONS: Wingspan 103 feet 9½ inches; length 74 feet 9 inches.

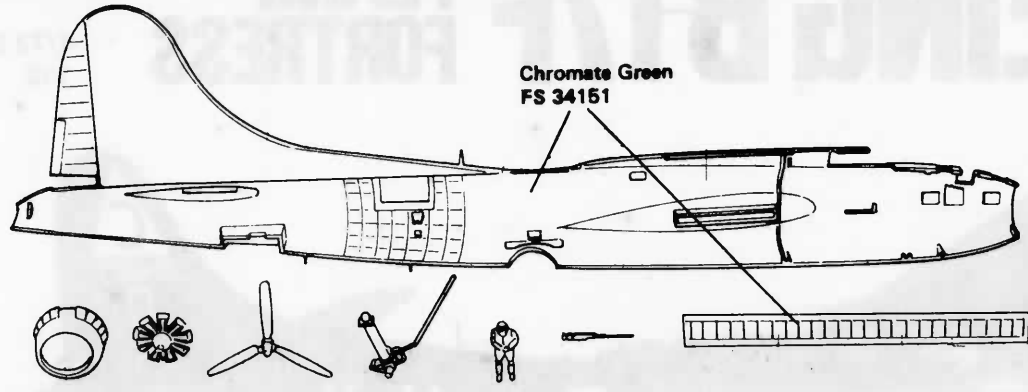
POWERPLANT: Four Wright GR-1820-97 air-cooled radial engines of 1,200 hp.

PERFORMANCE: Maximum speed 325 mph at 25,000 feet; maximum range 4,420 miles; service ceiling 35,000 feet.

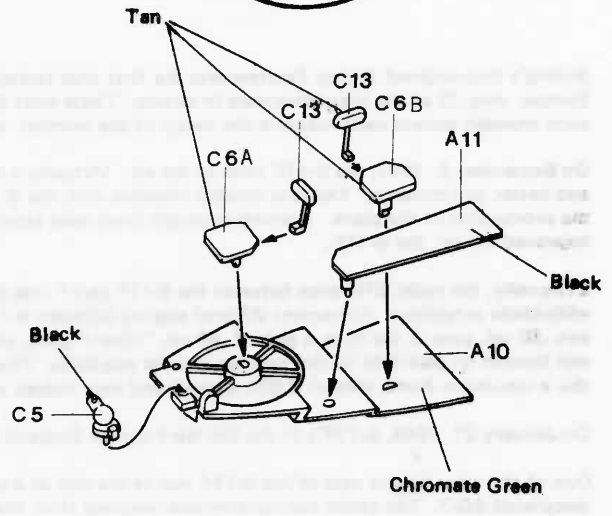
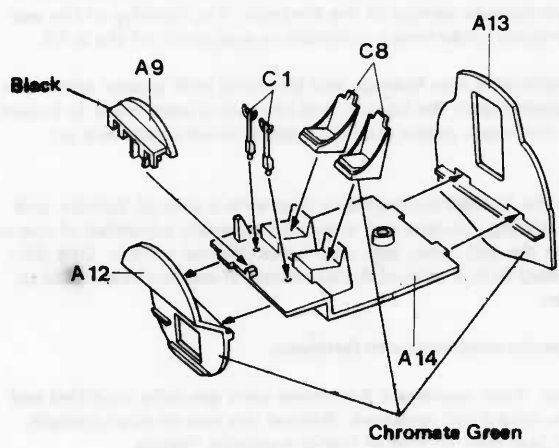
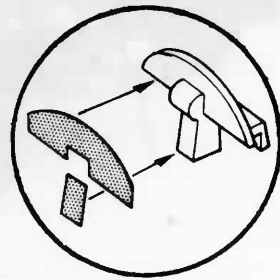
MINICRAFT MODELS, INC
1510 W. 228th STREET
TORRANCE, CA 90501



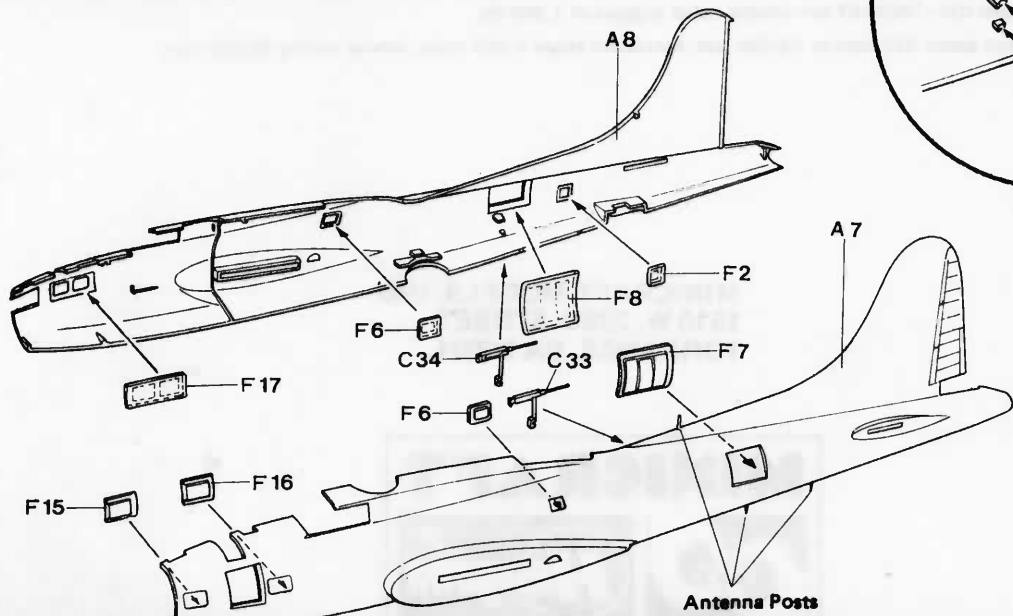
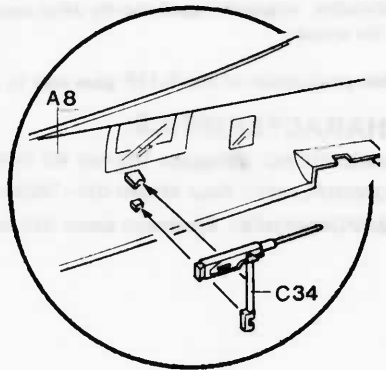
1 For greater realism, these parts should be painted before assembly. Detailed painting instructions can be found elsewhere in this assembly manual.



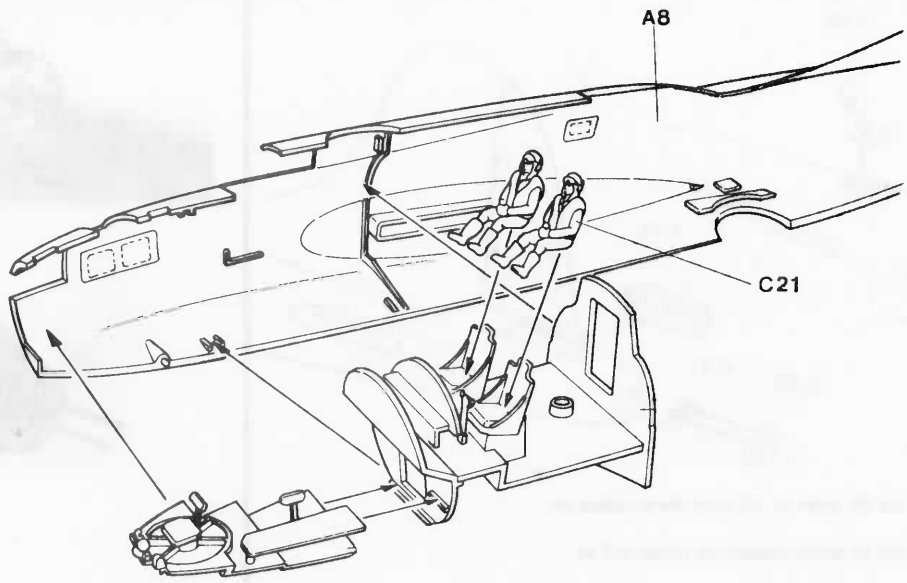
2 Cement two C1's to A14.
 Cement two C8's to A14.
 Apply instrument decals to A9 as shown in detail then cement A9 to A14.
 Now cement A14 to A12 and A13 and set unit aside.
 Cement one C13 to C6A as shown then cement C6A to A10.
 Cement second C13 to C6B then cement C6B to A10.
 Cement A11 to A10.
 Cement C5 to A10 as indicated and set aside.



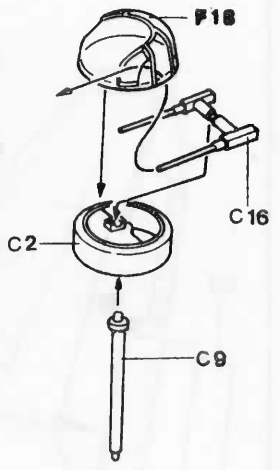
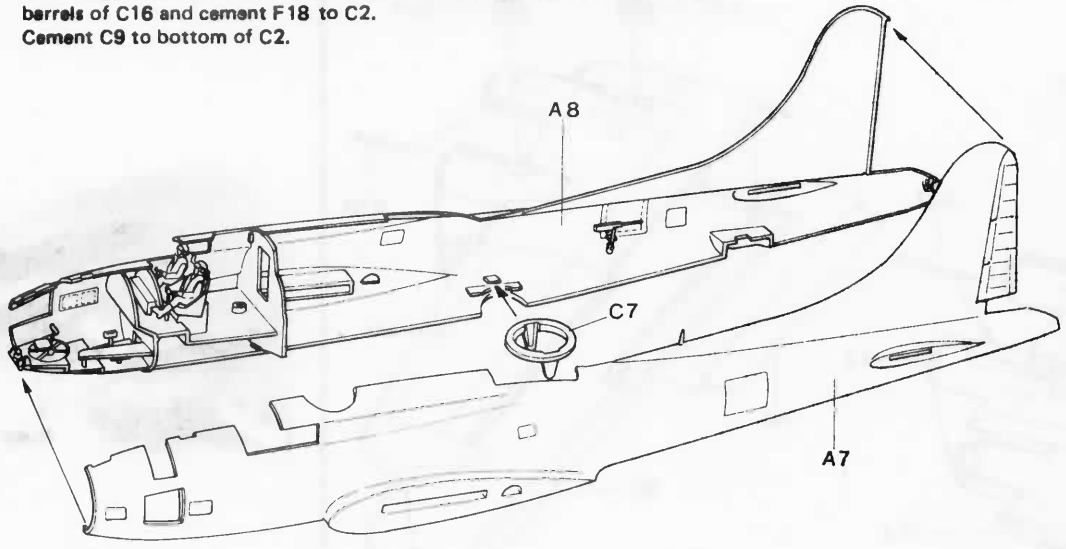
3 Cement F17, F6, F8 and F2 into A8.
 Cement F15, F16, F6 and F7 into A7.
 Cement C34 to ledge next to waist gun window on A8 and cement C33 to ledge on A7. Note: windows F7 and F8 may be left out if desired, in which case the machine guns may be aimed through the opening.



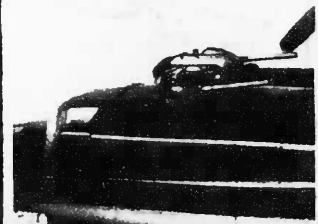
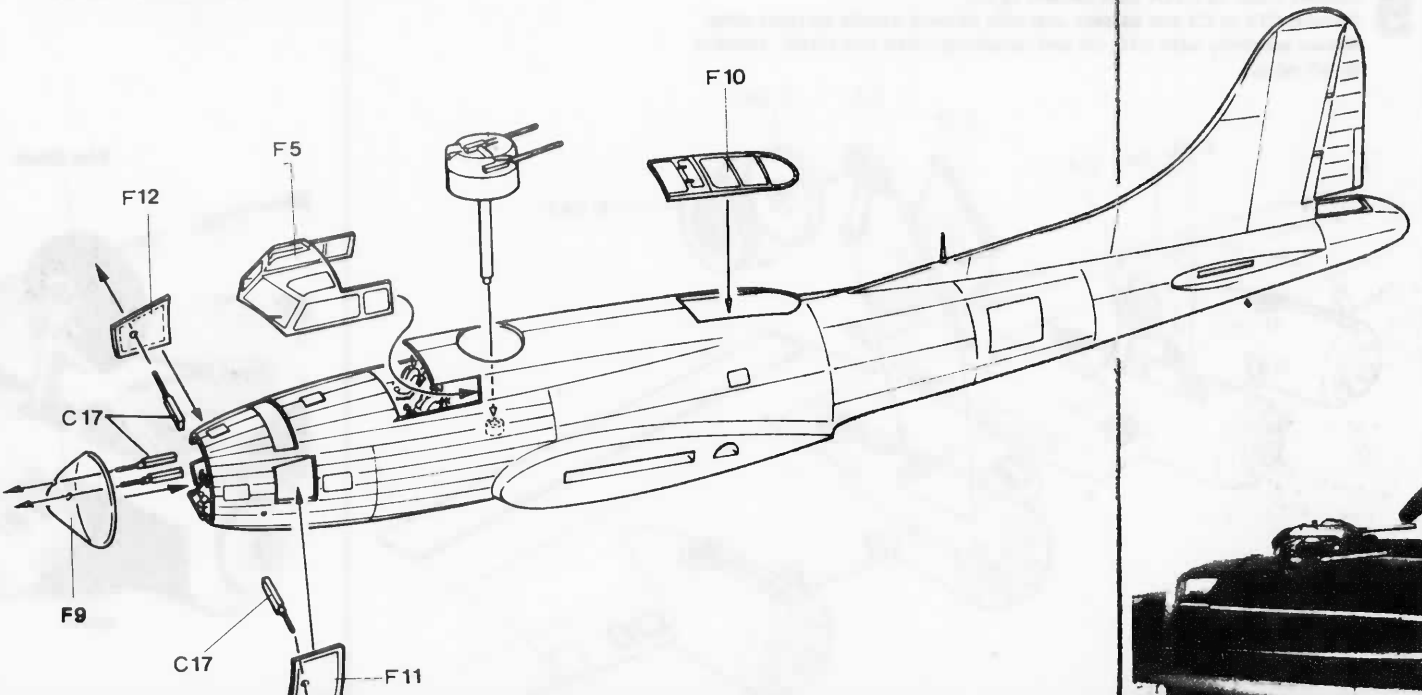
4 Cement an C21 into each pilot seat.
Cement interior subassemblies from Step 2 in place in A8.



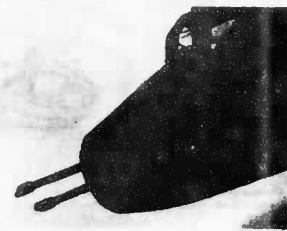
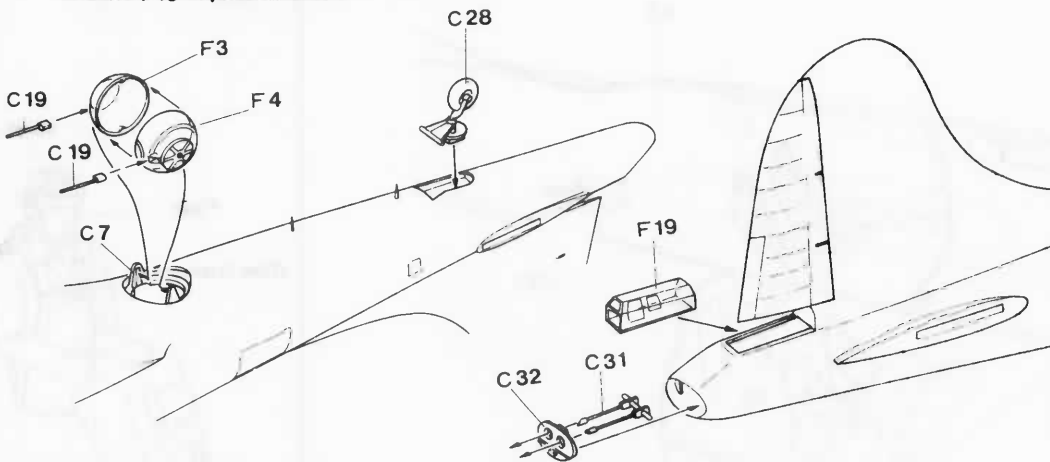
5 Carefully place C7 between ribs on A8 as shown and cement A8 to A7.
Cement groove in C16 into notched rib in C2 then slide slots in F18 over barrels of C16 and cement F18 to C2.
Cement C9 to bottom of C2.



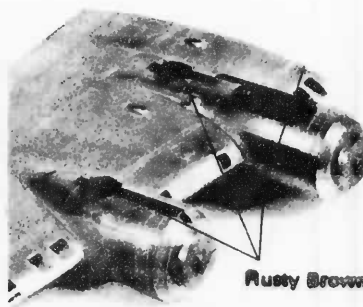
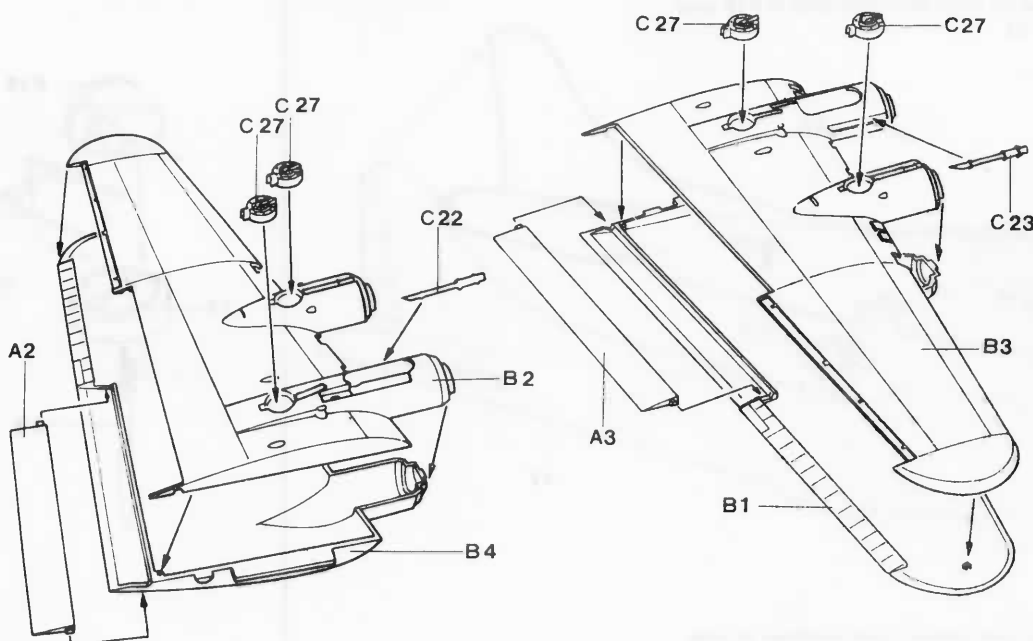
6 Cement one C17 into F11 and F12, then cement these windows to nose as indicated.
Cement two C17's into F9 and cement F9 to nose.
Place a drop of cement on end of shaft (C9) of upper turret and cement shaft into socket on cockpit floor inside fuselage.
Cement F5 over cockpit.



7 Cement F3 and F4 together then cement two C19's in place. Carefully spread prongs on C7 protruding from fuselage bottom and snap pins on turret into grooves in C7. Cement C28 into tail wheel well. Place barrels of C31 through holes in C32 then cement C32 to rear of fuselage. Cement F19 in place as shown.

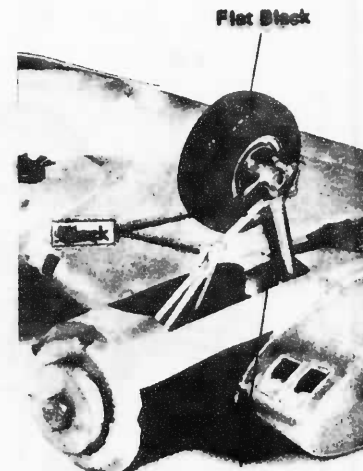
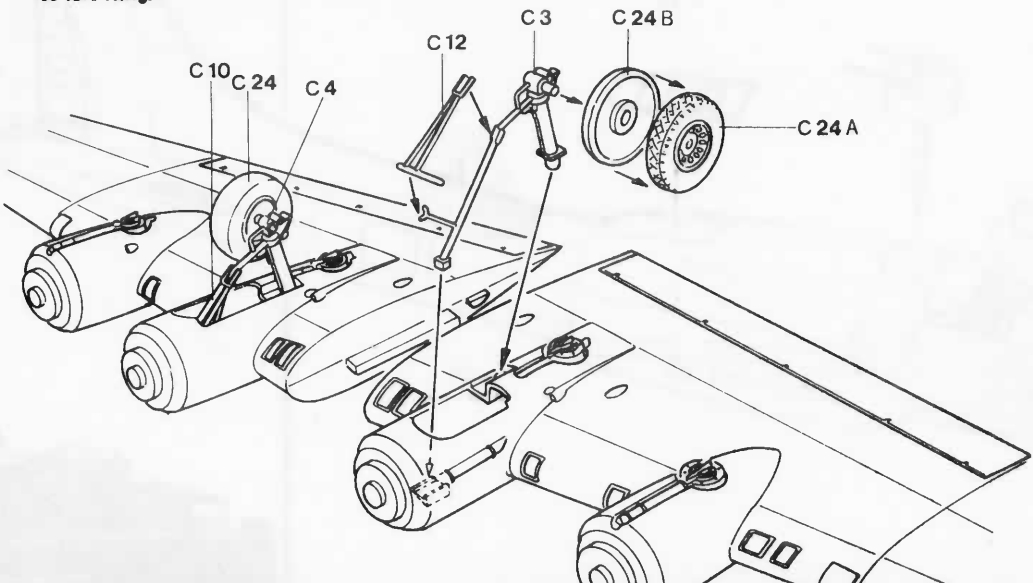


8 Lay B4 face down and place the pins on the ends of A2 into the notches on B4 as shown by arrows in diagram. Now cement B2 to B4, being careful not to allow cement to touch A2 or flaps will not work. Cement C22 to outside edge of inboard nacelle on B2. Cement one C27 to each nacelle to complete right wing. Repeat with parts B1, A3, B3, C23 and remaining C27's for left wing.



Rusty Brown

9 Cement C24B to C24A then cement to C3. Cement C12 to C3 and cement unit into inboard nacelle on right wing. Repeat assembly with C10, C4 and remaining C24A and C24B. Cement to left wing.

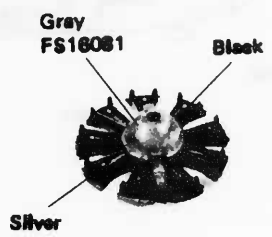
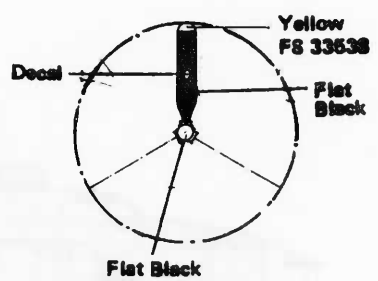
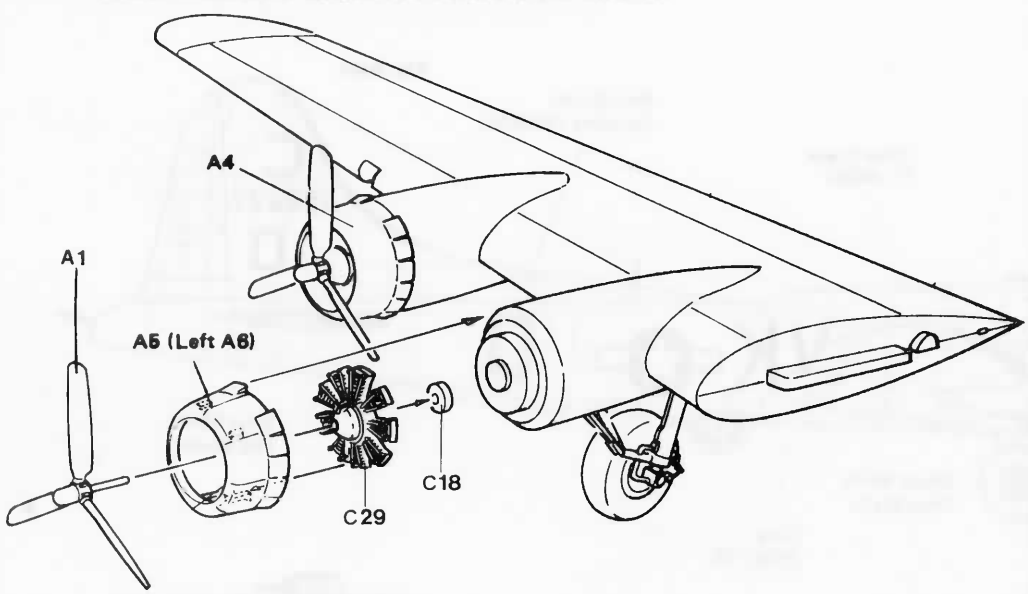


Flat Black

Silver

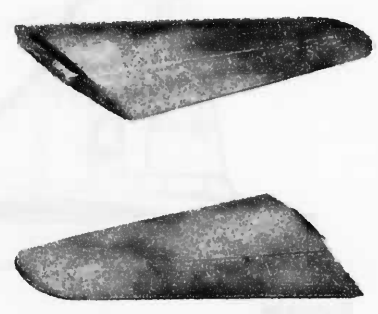
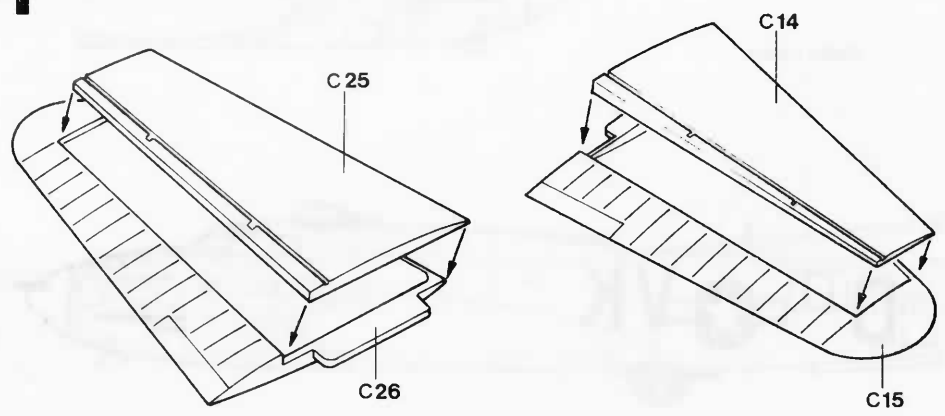
10

Cement C29 into A5.
 Slide shaft on A1 through hole in C29 and carefully cement C18 to end of shaft.
 Cement A5 to front of right inboard nacelle as shown.
 Repeat for inboard left engine using cowling A6.
 For both outboard nacelles assemble engines using cowling A4.



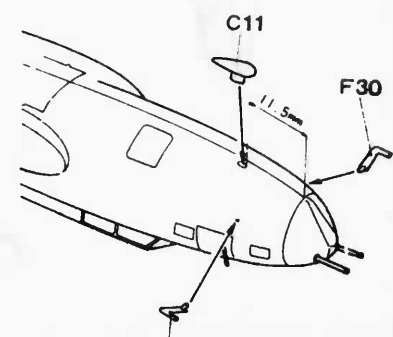
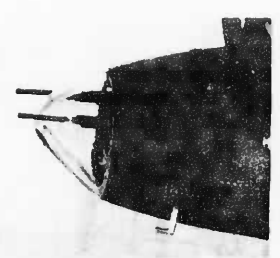
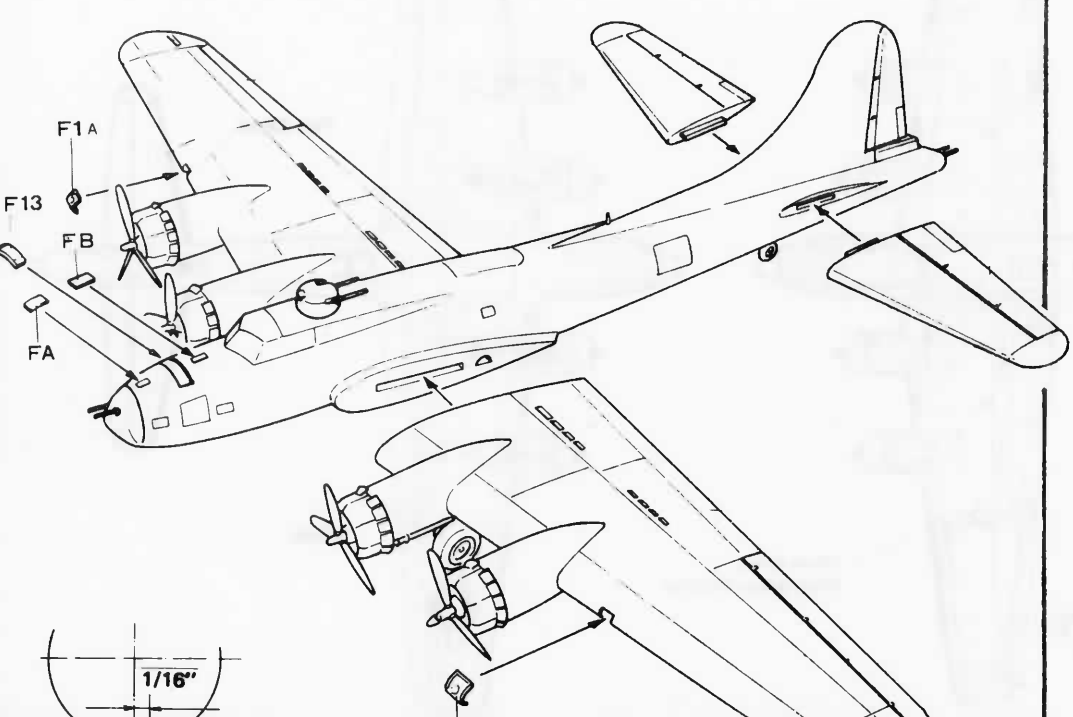
11

Cement C25 to C26. Cement C14 to C15.



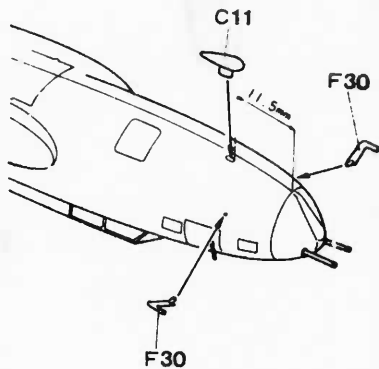
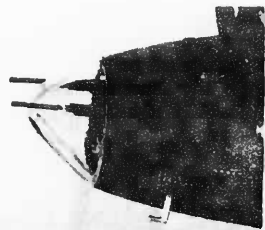
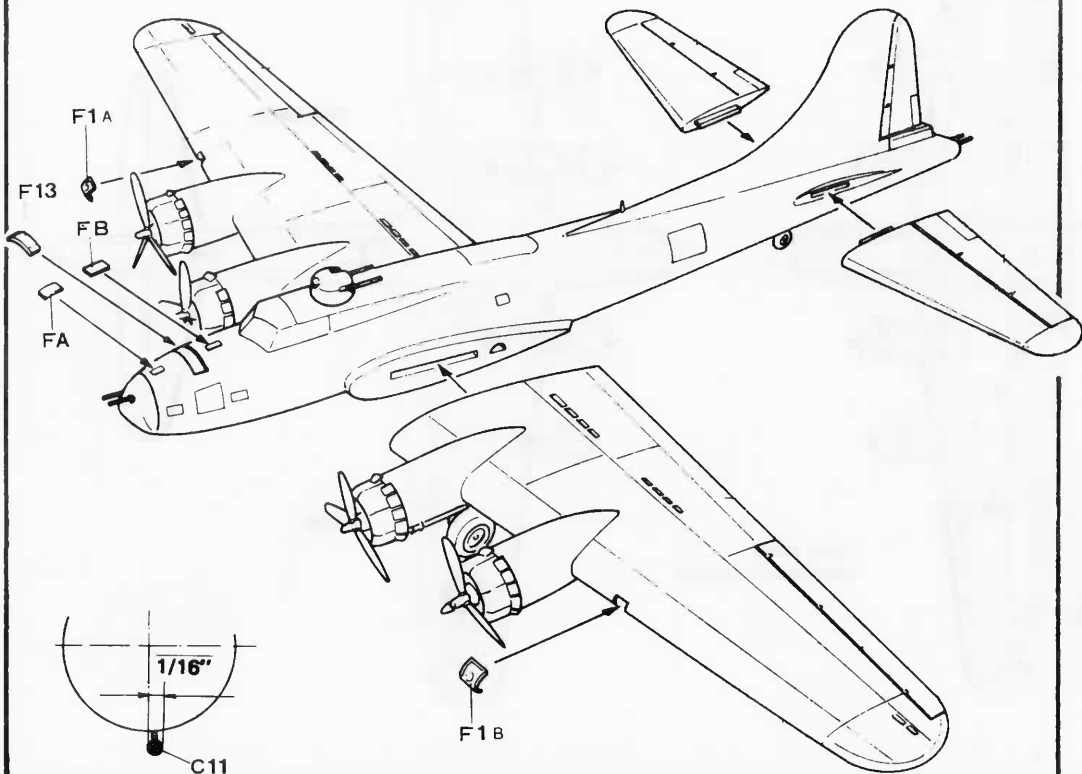
12

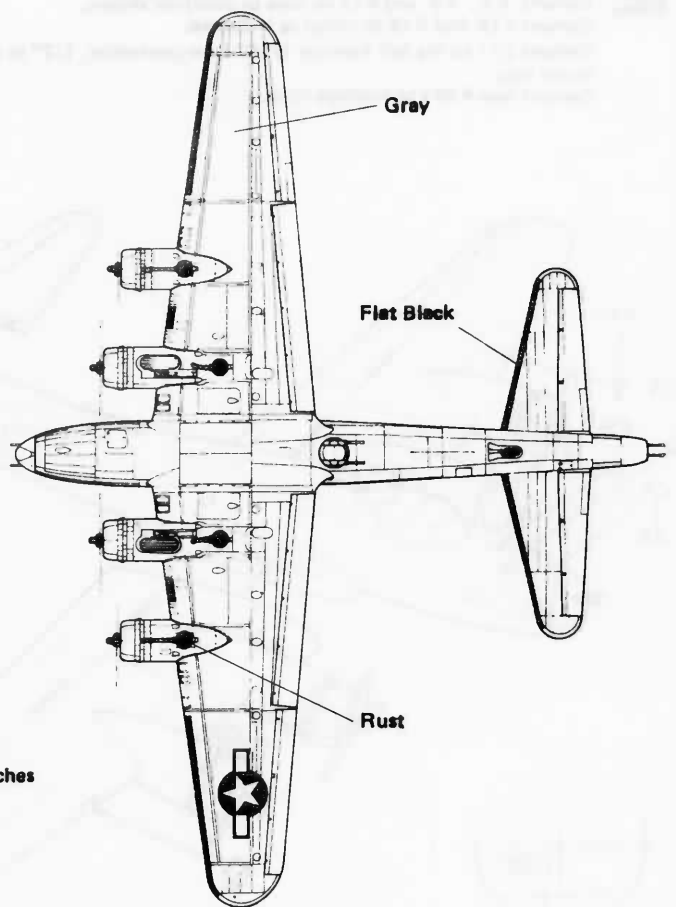
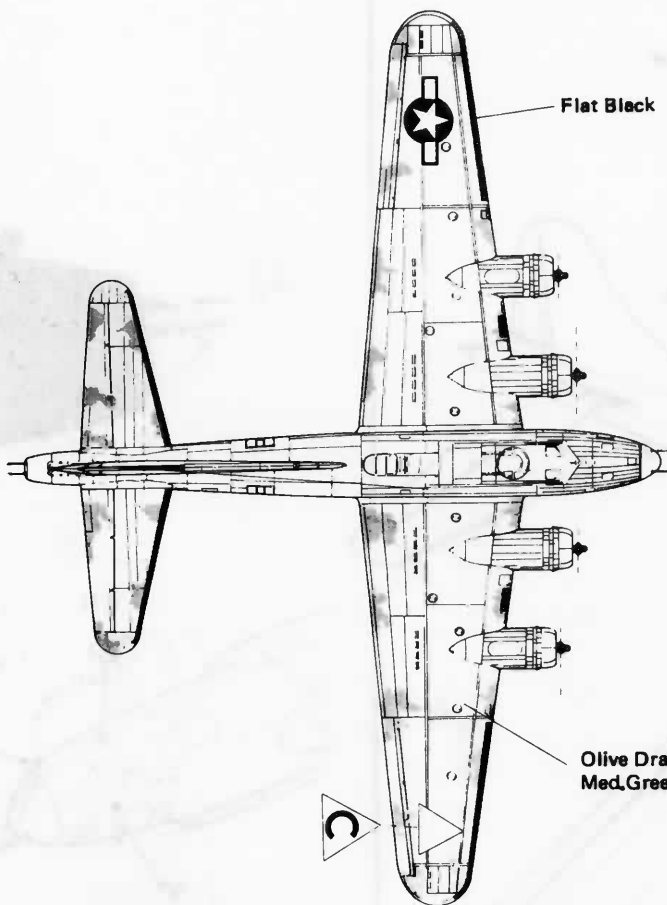
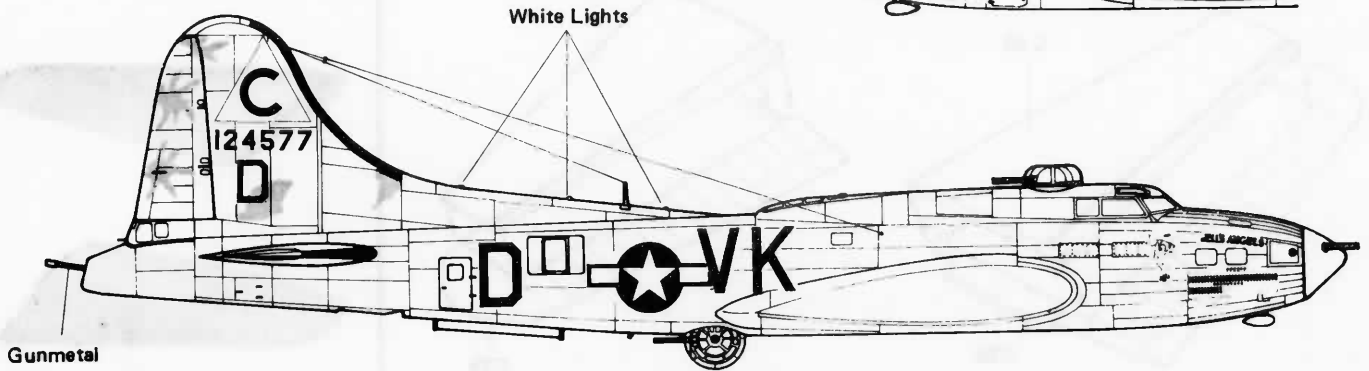
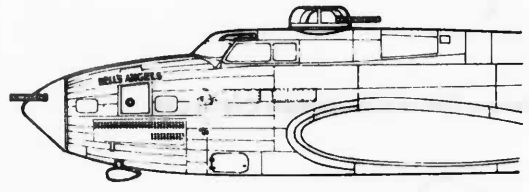
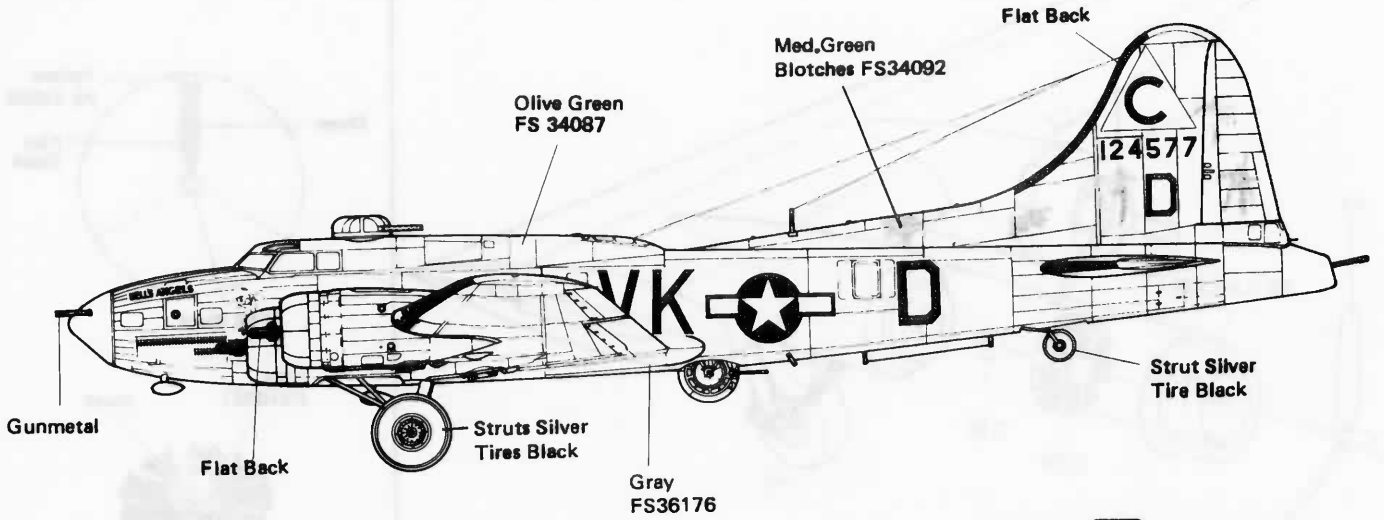
Cement wing and stabilizer assemblies to fuselage.
 Cement FA, FB and F13 to nose in positions shown.
 Cement F1A and F1B to wings as indicated.
 Cement C11 to the left fuselage 1/16" from centerline, 1/2" in front of bomb bay.
 Cement two F30's to fuselage nose.



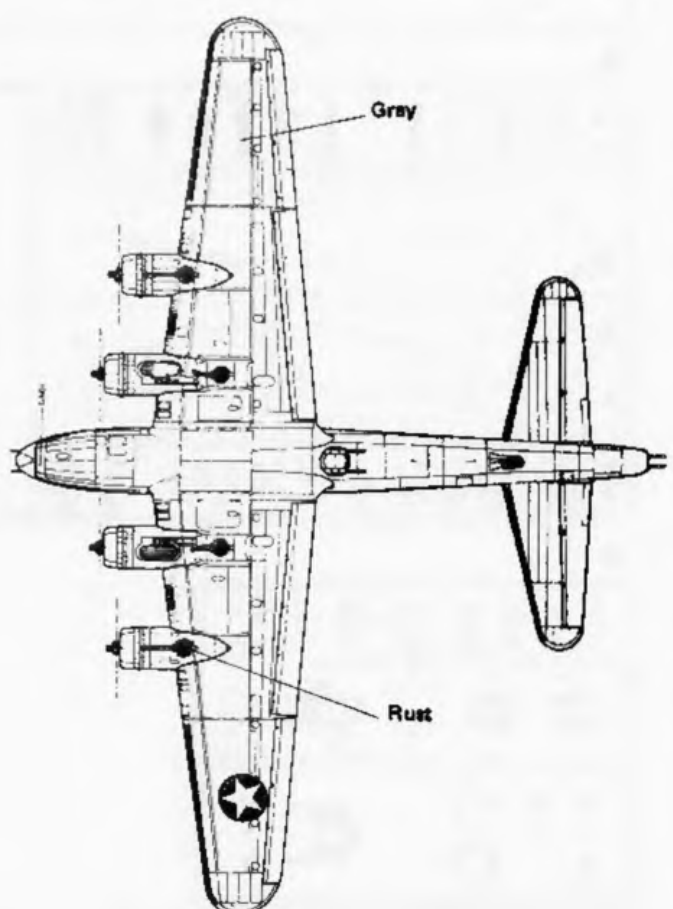
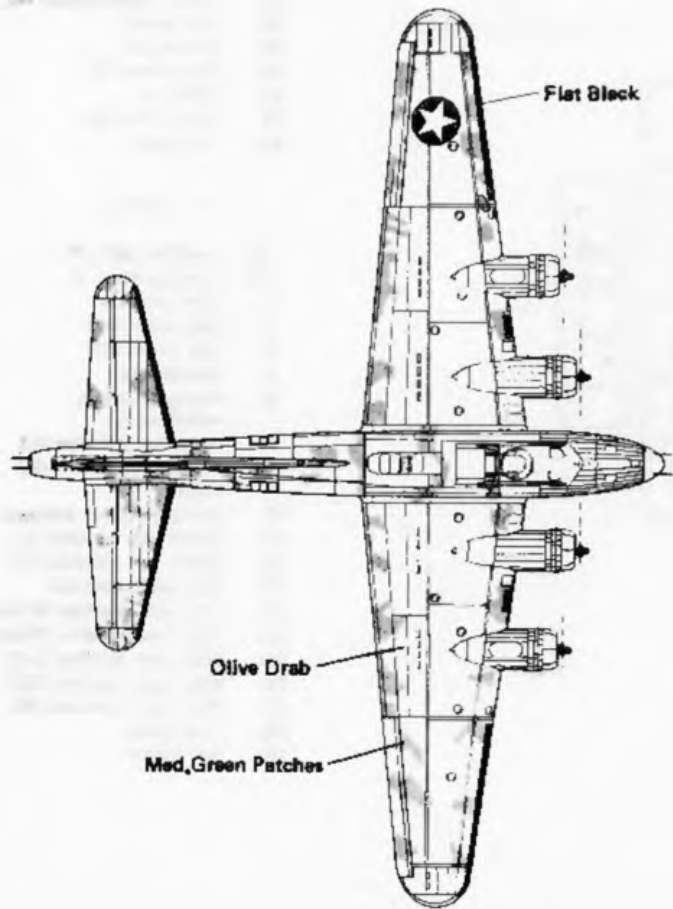
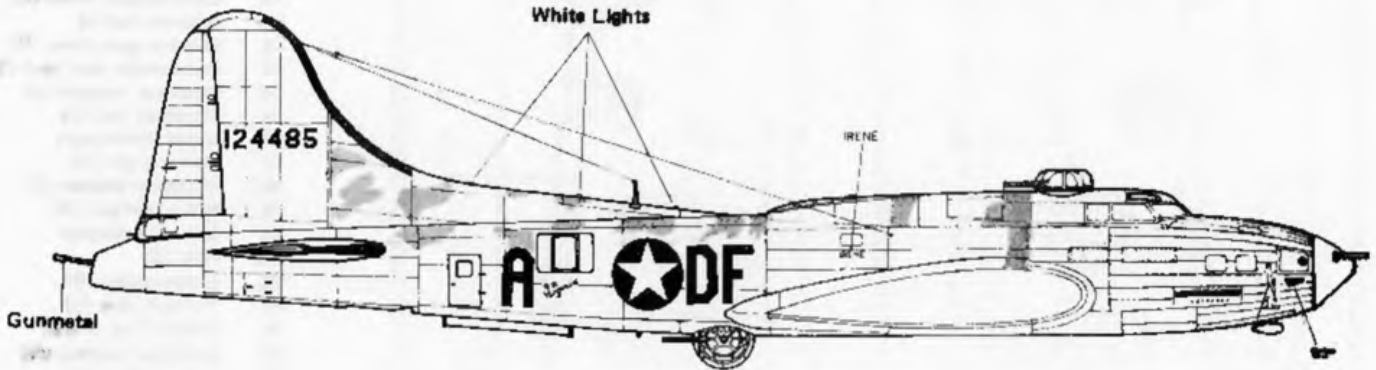
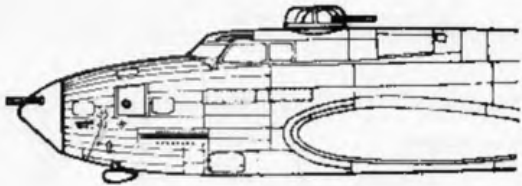
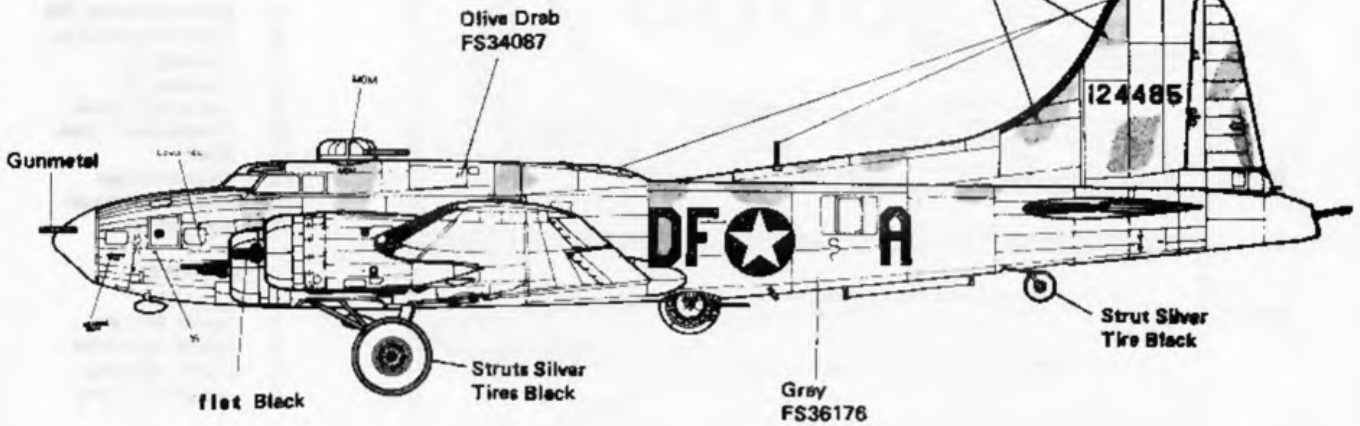
12

Cement wing and stabilizer assemblies to fuselage.
Cement FA, FB and F13 to nose in positions shown.
Cement F1A and F1B to wings as indicated.
Cement C11 to the left fuselage 1/16" from centerline, 1/2" in front of bomb bay.
Cement two F30's to fuselage nose.



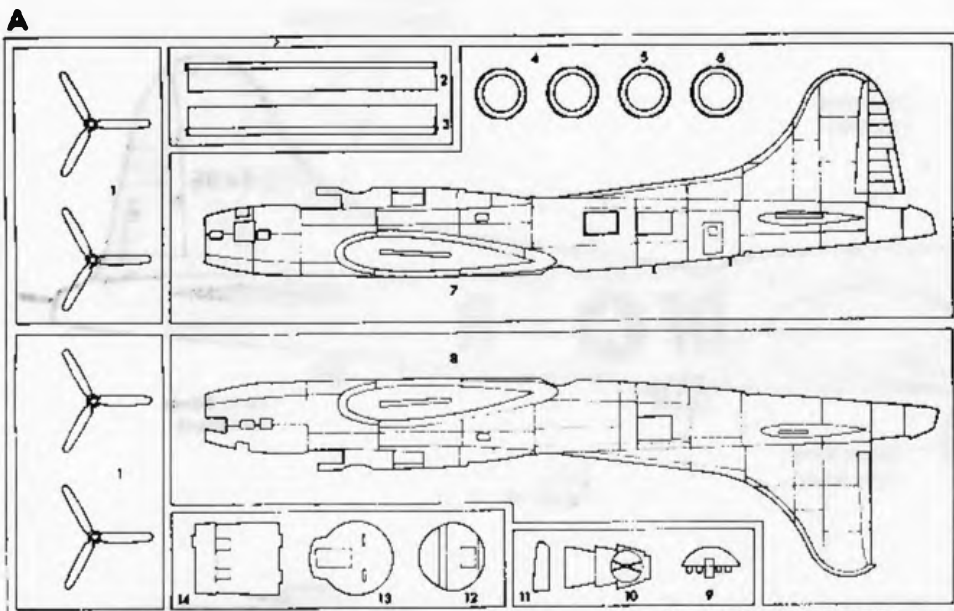


Med.Green
Blotches FS34092



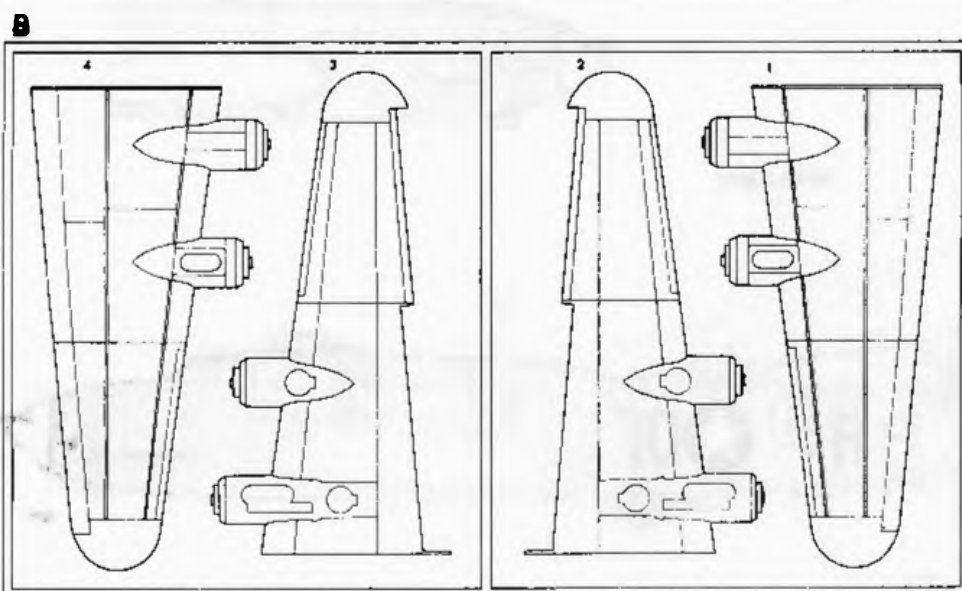
PARTS LIST

"A" PARTS

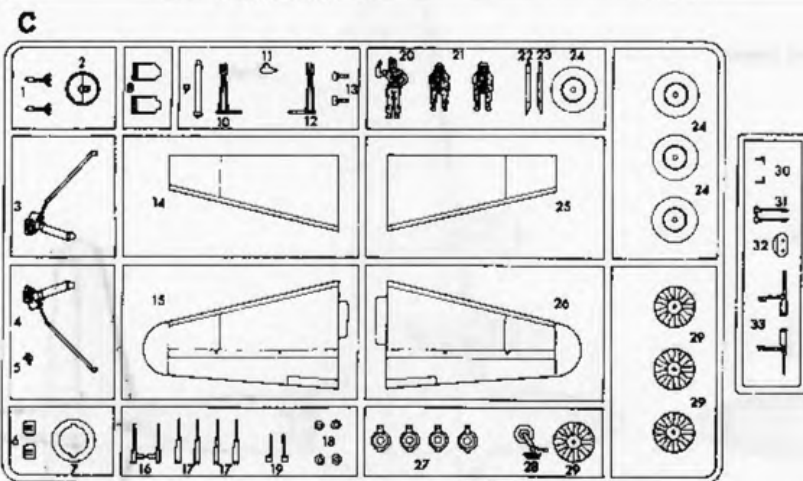


1. Propeller (4)
2. Flap (L)
3. Flap (R)
4. Outboard cowling (2)
5. Inboard cowling (R)
6. Inboard cowling (L)
7. Fuselage (L)
8. Fuselage (R)
9. Instrument panel
10. Bombardier's floor
11. Shelf
12. Nose bulkhead
13. Cockpit bulkhead
14. Cockpit floor

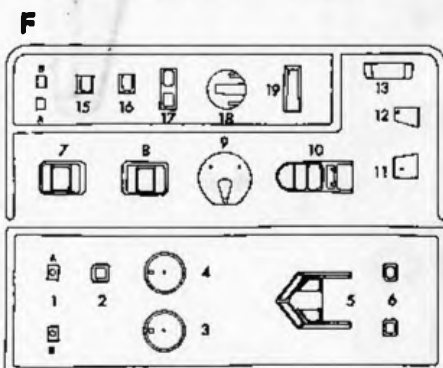
"B" PARTS



1. Upper left wing
 2. Lower right wing
 3. Lower left wing
 4. Upper right wing
- "C" PARTS
1. Control column (2)
 2. Upper turret base
 3. Gear strut (R)
 4. Gear strut (L)
 5. Norden bomb sight
 6. Bombardier seat (A & B)
 7. Ball turret retainer
 8. Pilot seats (2)
 9. Upper turret shaft
 10. Landing gear brace (L)
 11. Antenna fairing
 12. Landing gear brace (R)
 13. Bombardier seat back (2)
 14. Stabilizer bottom (L)
 15. Stabilizer top (L)
 16. Upper turret guns
 17. Machine gun (4)
 18. Propeller retainer (4)
 19. Ball turret gun (2)
 20. Ground crewman
 21. Pilot (2)
 22. Exhaust pipe (R)
 23. Exhaust pipe (L)
 24. Wheel (2 ea. A & B)
 25. Stabilizer bottom (R)
 26. Stabilizer top (R)
 27. Turbo supercharger (4)
 28. Tail wheel
 29. Engine (4)
 30. Pilot tubes (2)
 31. Tail guns
 32. Tail turret cap
 33. Waist guns



"F" PARTS



- 1A. Landing light (R)
- 1B. Landing light (L)
2. Rear window
3. Ball turret half
4. Ball turret half
5. Windshield
6. Navigator's side windows (2)
7. Waist gun window (L)
8. Waist gun window (R)
9. Nose
10. Navigator's top window
11. Cheek gun window (L)
12. Cheek gun window (R)
13. Top nose windows
- 14A. Top nose window (Front)
- 14B. Top nose window (Rear)
15. Side nose window (LF)
16. Side nose window (RF)
17. Side nose windows (R)
18. Top turret
19. Tail turret