

# Digital 1/48



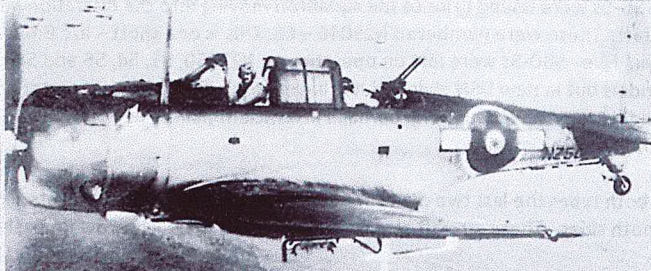
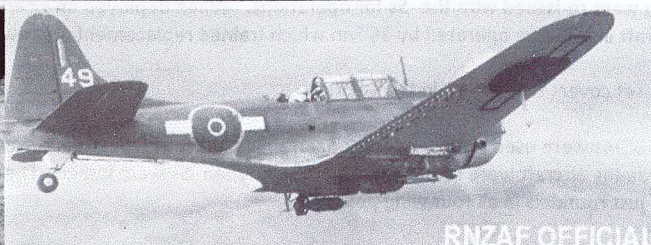
OMD1155

www.oldmodelsdecals.com

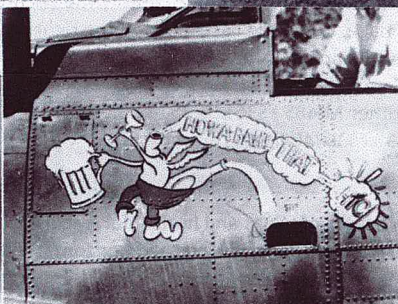


Makers of high quality decals for  
NZ aircraft model subjects

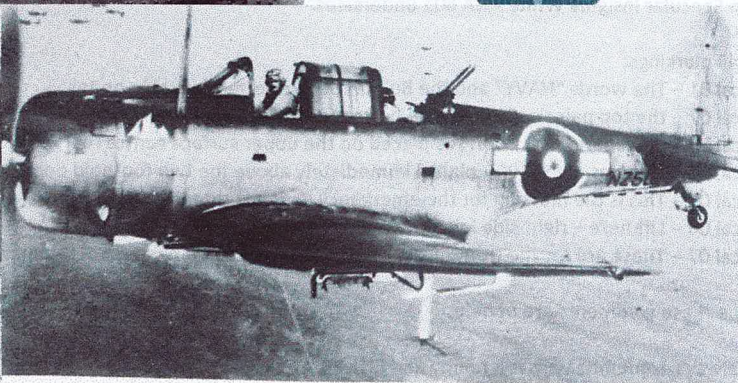
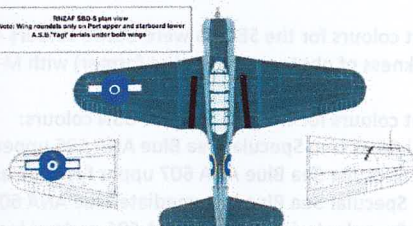
## RNZAF Dauntless – SBD -4 and -5 Pacific Theatre



No 25 Squadron RNZAF SBDs at Torokina airstrip on Bougainville, with their maintenance team from 26 SU. Ron A. Sutherland commented, "As you can see we had only three aircraft parked in each revetment dispersed as

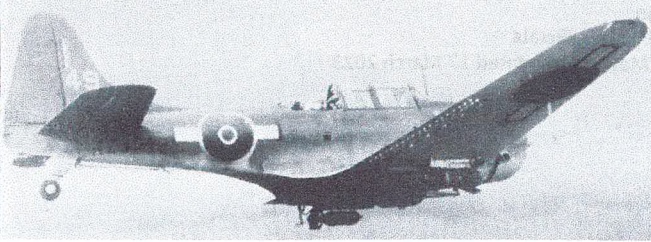
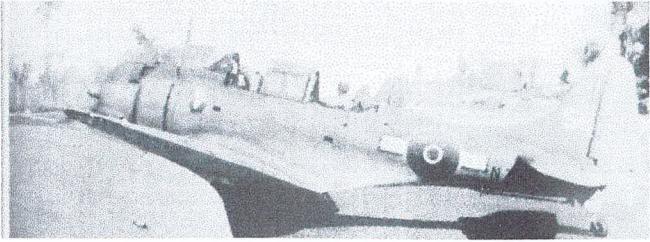


RNZAF SBD-5 plan view  
Note: Wing numbers only on Port upper and starboard lower  
A.S.B. 'Tagg' decals under both wings



A fully armed SBD-4 Dauntless of 25 Squadron taking off at Piva, Bougainville, before a strike in 1944

NZ5064 was one of 24 SBD-5 Dauntlesses used by 25 Squadron on operations from Piva, Bougainville, March to



These decals were matched to the 1/72 Airfix kit and scaled for other scales.

The RNZAF operated a total of 68 Dauntless aircraft from late 1943 to May 1944. These comprised:

18 SBD-3 aircraft operated as training aircraft at RNZAF Seagrove in New Zealand

9 SBD-4 aircraft operated as training aircraft at RNZAF Seagrove in New Zealand

18 SBD-4 aircraft operated as training aircraft at Espiritu Santo in the Pacific

25 SBD-5 aircraft used on operations from Piva in Guadalcanal in the Pacific. A further SBD-5 was lost on a ferry flight and not brought on charge.

All aircraft were provided under lend lease. The -3s and -4s were war weary aircraft, the -5s were new from the manufacturer.

The aircraft in New Zealand were operated by 25 Sqn until 17 Dec 43 when the personnel deployed to Espiritu Santo to train on the -4s there then were re-issued with the -5s for operations. When deployed on operations 25 Sqn was known as 25SU. After deployment of 25 Sqn the aircraft in NZ were operated by 26 Sqn which trained replacement aircrew for 25 Sqn.

This set covers the aircraft in the Pacific.

18 SBD-4s were used for pre-operational training at Espiritu Santo and were coded NZ5028 to 5045. One aircraft NZ5037 was lost – all remaining aircraft were returned to the USMC when -5s were issued. The –SBD-4s had overpainted roundels with bars only on the fuselage and just roundels in all four wing positions.

18 SBD-5s were issued prior to the squadron moving into the operational theatre at Piva. Another 8 were subsequently issued as attrition aircraft. These were numbered NZ5046 – 68. This is one short – a/c Bu28452 was lost on its ferry flight to Piva and was never issued a RNZAF serial. Five –SBD-5s were lost on operations – NZ5050, 51, 54, 55 and 58. The deployed operational aircraft were in full RNZAF Pacific roundels but in new USN style did not have markings on the right upper and left lower wings. For some SBD-4 aircraft the overpainted US roundels are visible beneath – perhaps insufficient paint – see photo of “64”. All surviving aircraft were returned to the USMC when 25 SU re-equipped with Corsairs.

For both types the last two digits of the NZ serial number were repeated in large numbers on the tail and smaller numbers on the engine cowl on both sides. These aircraft also carried standard RNZAF narrow fin flashes on the tail – red forward.

The -5 operational aircraft carried a range of personal markings and those that I have been able to see the artwork clearly on are reproduced here. These were carried on the left fuselage. The aircraft numbers in blue identify the aircraft that carried them. For positioning see photographs. Generally, these were on the left fuselage, but in the case of 51 on the right side instead. Also provided are two copies of the 25 SU crest sometimes also present either on the same or opposite side.

Paint colours for the SBD-4s were USMC colours - either M-485 FS36118-35189 Blue Grey or FS35164 Intermediate Blue upper surfaces (darkness of photos suggests the former) with M-495 FS36440 light grey undersides.

Paint colours for the SBD-5s were USN colours:

Semi Gloss Non Specular Sea Blue ANA 606 upper surfaces of wings and horizontal stabilisers.

Non Specular Sea Blue ANA 607 upper fuselage and leading edges of wings and horizontal stabilisers.

Non Specular Sea Blue Intermediate Blue ANA 608 tail and fuselage side.

Non Specular Insignia White ANA 601 undersides.

Small markings:

Decal 01 – The words “NAVY” and the Bu number – one set each side on tail

Decal 02 – the top pair say “SBD-4” the bottom pair “SBD-5” – they are on the rudder.

Decal 03 – six generic “NO PUSH” as placed on the upper surface centre rear edge of moving surfaces – ailerons, flaps and elevators

Decal 04 – 2 copies of “STEP” – placed immediately above the two foothold depressions on the left fuselage

Decal 05 – This is the marking for the emergency gear left side to rear of cockpit – on the left top corner of the white bar on the -5s.

Decal 06 – Lift here – right side low down forward of rear wheel.

Decal 07 – These are for the front of the propeller blades a combination of the manufacturer’s label and stencil data.

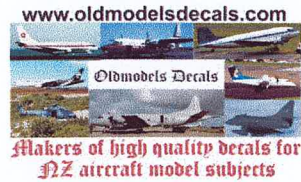
Hope these comments are of help.

As always, remember this is a hobby and ENJOY!

John

©Idmodels Details

22 May 2017 updated 17 March 2023



## PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE COMMITTING THE DECALS TO WATER

These instructions on decal preparation are generic and use apply to most decal brands.

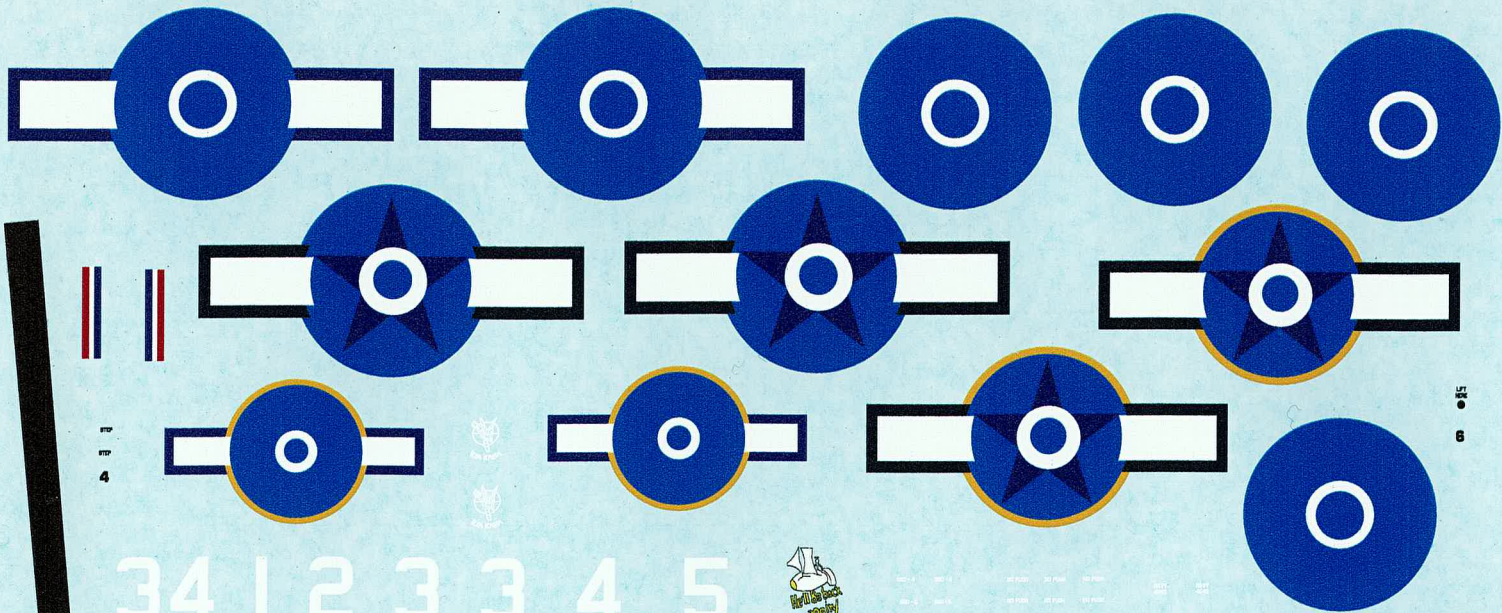
**These decals are a continuous sheet.** Therefore you need to cut out around each decal. Digital decals will also stand being cut into pieces – this may help with large decals.

**The backing stock (the clear areas) tend to be very thin.** This may also be the case with **dark colours**. Experiment with spare bits, an overcoat of gloss/satin/matt clear coat maybe appropriate.

On the other hand some **white and light coloured** decals printed before April 2016 tend to be quite **thick** – this is caused by the white ink that needs to be thick to avoid “see through” opacity when applied over dark paint. This can make the decals difficult to bend and contour to the model. The use of Microsol or DACO or other brand similar products is recommended.

**Please note that most decal stock do not like being over-soaked.** Dip them just enough to become wet, remove and leave for a minute or so until they slide off. **If over soaked they may lose their “stickiness”.** If this happens the use of Microset or DACO or other brand similar products is recommended.

Generally there are extra bits and/or options on most sheets – I suggest you play around with them and then do the "real" decal application.



34123345  
 5667890  
 34123345  
 5667890

NZ5034 | 2 3 4 5 5 6 6 7 8 9 0  
 NZ5034 | 2 3 3 4 5 5 6 6 7 8 9 0



Mad Mac  
 Synchroation



Quality

