



## Douglas DC-3 K.L.M. West-Indies "later schemes"

### INTRODUCTION

The K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines operated Douglas DC-3 (C-53 and C-47) popularly known as Dakota prop aircraft in the Caribbean through their "Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij West Indisch Bedrijf" (K.L.M-WIB) after the Second World War.

Some 10 aircraft were flown with registration PJ- :

#### Douglas DC-3

PJ-ALA	Douglas C-53-DO	c/n 7392	1945-1961
PJ-ALB	Douglas C-53-DO	c/n 7345	1945-1961
PJ-ALC	Douglas C-53-DO	c/n 7338	1945-1962
PJ-ALD	Douglas DC-3D	c/n 42965	1946-1955
PJ-ALE	Douglas C-47A-70-DL	c/n 19247	1946-1960
PJ-ALG	Douglas C-47A	c/n 12953	1946-1948
PJ-ALH	Douglas C-47A-1-DK	c/n 11994	1946-1954
PJ-ALI	Douglas C-47A-25-DK	c/n 13301	1947-1949
PJ-ALP	Douglas C-47A-DK	c/n 11831	1947-1954
PJ-ALT	Douglas C-47A	c/n 9904	1949-1955

Note that the fuselage configurations of the DC-3/ C-53 have a rear passenger door at port, C-47 has a large cargo door.

Antennas on the upper fuselage may vary as well between individual aircraft as well as the long wire antennas. On most planes the astrodome was still present.

### MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale several C-47 / DC-3 plastic model kits have appeared over the years. Many of these have some inaccurate shapes. The latest Airfix 1/72 kits C-47A kit #A08014 or Dakota #A08015 are very nice.

### DECAL SYSTEM and APPLICATION

The decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior laser printed decal preparation is needed. Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on the model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to

indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect the decals.

### K.L.M-WIB PAINTING AND DECALS

Several different K.L.M-WIB DC-3 and C-47 were used with many different schemes. At first sight a scheme looks similar to a KLM scheme on aircraft used in Europe but there are quite some subtle differences, even per individual aircraft. If blue cheat lines were present, these also could vary in style. Some with letter style of codes and registrations.

On the upper wing there was common a large registration in orange lettering in KLM font as well as at the lower wing. The PJ- and A—code was on both sides. (apply the white undercoat letter decals first and than the orange letter).

Note that some planes are had a small registration letter code at the tail and above the cockpit windows an even smaller code.

Cockpit and cabin interior is light grey. In the cabin area seats were set in rows with usually blue upholstered passenger seats which were also removed but for cargo flights.

The wing, stabilizers and cowlings were natural bare metal. Same with fuselage colour though the upper fuselage colour and tail colour was sometimes white at the later applied scheme.

Note that on these planes NO black anti-icing areas were seen such as on leading edges at outboard starboard and port wing, vertical tail and stabilizers. A small anti-glare panel at front cockpit windows is more common.

The propellers are natural metal with black edges but otherwise varied with yellow tips, white-red-white-blue tips or uncoloured tips.

### REFERENCES

On internet it is easy to find photos of the DC-3's of the K.L.M-WIB by searching combined with + PJ- ....

Recommended book in Dutch: "DAKOTA", DC-3/ C-47 onder Nederlandse vlag by Theo Wesselink et al, De Alk, 1985

*This decals sheet could be realized with the assistance of Mr. Cedric Bronswinkel of the Museo Aeronautiko Curaçao; Dutch Caribbean.*

## SCHEME L

Douglas DC-3 / C-53 [c/n 9904] coded PJ-ALT named TROEPIAAL after a local bid is shown in a later scheme. It has blue cheat lines, blue lines and blue trim on the nose. Also on inboard and outboard engine nacelles for which decals are provided. The blue curved areas on nose and cowlings are may be better painted though.

As C-47A it still has the large cargo door at port but now a different antenna layout and two long wire antennas.

The lower areas like wing, lower fuselage and nacelles are bare metal but has become dull. The upper fuselage and tail are gloss white with on the large rudder Dutch flag colours (red-white-dark blue) on both sides. Note that the demarcation between upper white and metal runs above the cheat line.

The FLYING DUTCHMAN title cheat line is at port/left and THE VLIEGENDE HOLLANDER title at starboard/right. NOTE: the cheat line lettering colour is unclear but may be light blue or just simple aluminium. For the light blue lettering use the separate decals to set these on the wide blue cheat lines.

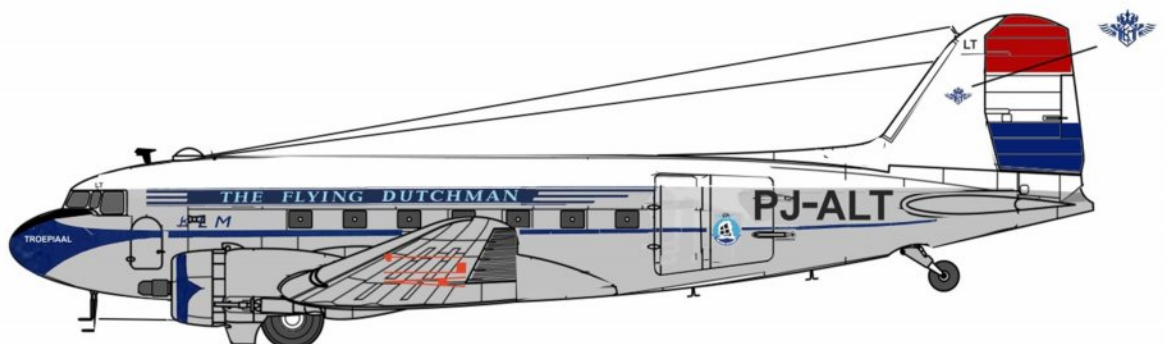
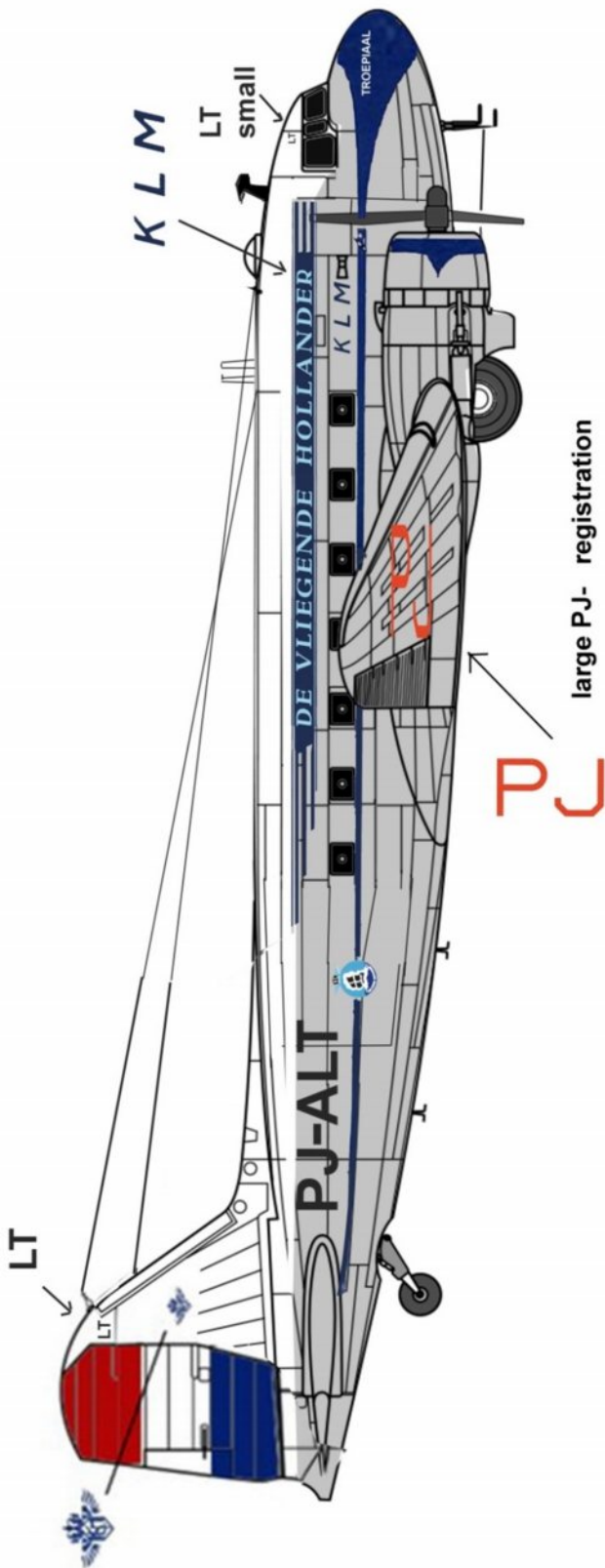
The aircraft name TROEPIAAL is in white in the blue nose area and there is NO small black anti-glare panel; trim the extra blue nose decals or paint blue.

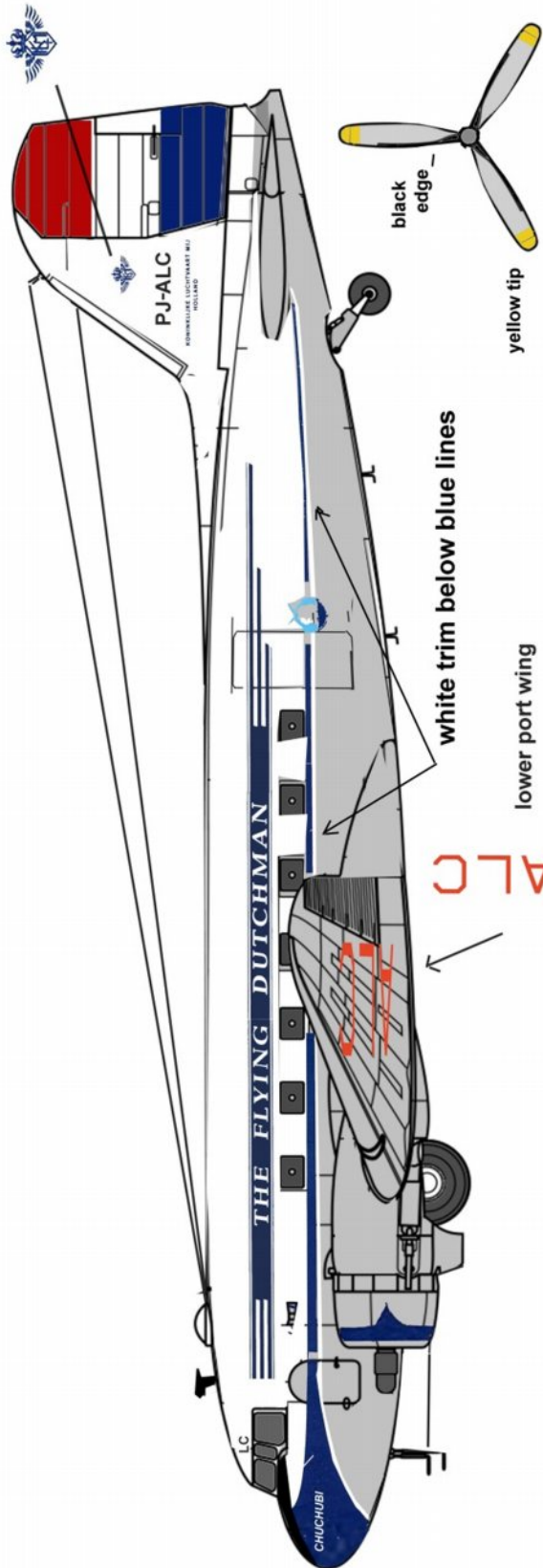
It has the standard large upper and lower wing KLM font registrations PJ-ALT in orange lettering. (apply the white undercoat letter decals first and than the orange letter).

The plane registration and the small KLM logo is on the white tail as is a larger LT code with above the cockpit windows a small LT code.

Natural metal propeller blades with black edges but the tip colours are unclear (yellow or white-red-white-blue). These are at both front and back prop areas).

(Scheme is almost symmetrical for port/ left side).





## SCHEME M

Douglas DC-3 / C-53 [c/n 7338] coded PJ-ALC named CHUCHUBI (in white on the nose) but in the latest applied K.L.M-WIB scheme.

It has blue cheat lines, blue lines and blue trim on the nose. Also on inboard and outboard engine nacelles for which decals are provided. The blue curved areas on nose and cowlings are may be better painted though.

As C-53 it has the standard passenger door at port but different antenna layout and two long wire antennas.

With this latest scheme, at starboard the last cabin window was blanked off for unknown reason (so remove/fill gap).

The lower areas like wing, lower fuselage and nacelles are bare metal but this has become dull. The upper wing tips and maybe lower wing tips appear to be painted light grey (see drawing below).

The upper fuselage and tail are gloss white with on the large rudder Dutch flag colours (red-white-dark blue) on both sides. The FLYING DUTCHMAN cheat line is at now at port/left and THE VLIEGENDE HOLLANDER now at starboard/right. The cheat line lettering is white so use the white underpaint for the white.

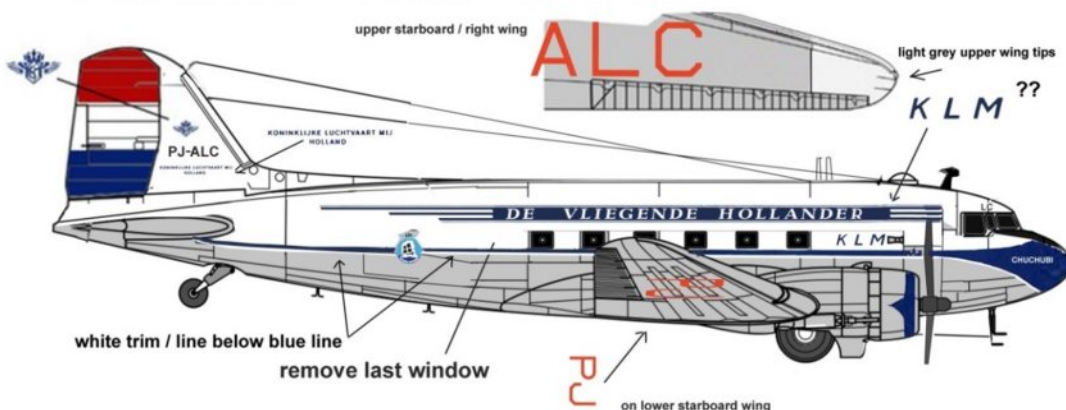
The demarcation line between white<>metal is now running below the windows. This requires careful masking. IMPORTANT: Below the lower blue horizontal lines runs a thin white trim/ edge! To help the modeller, spare white thin lines are on the decals sheet to get a fine finish in case masking was a bit imprecise; there are also curved white lines for the nose.

The aircraft name CHUCHUBI is in white in the blue nose area and there is a small black anti-glare panel.

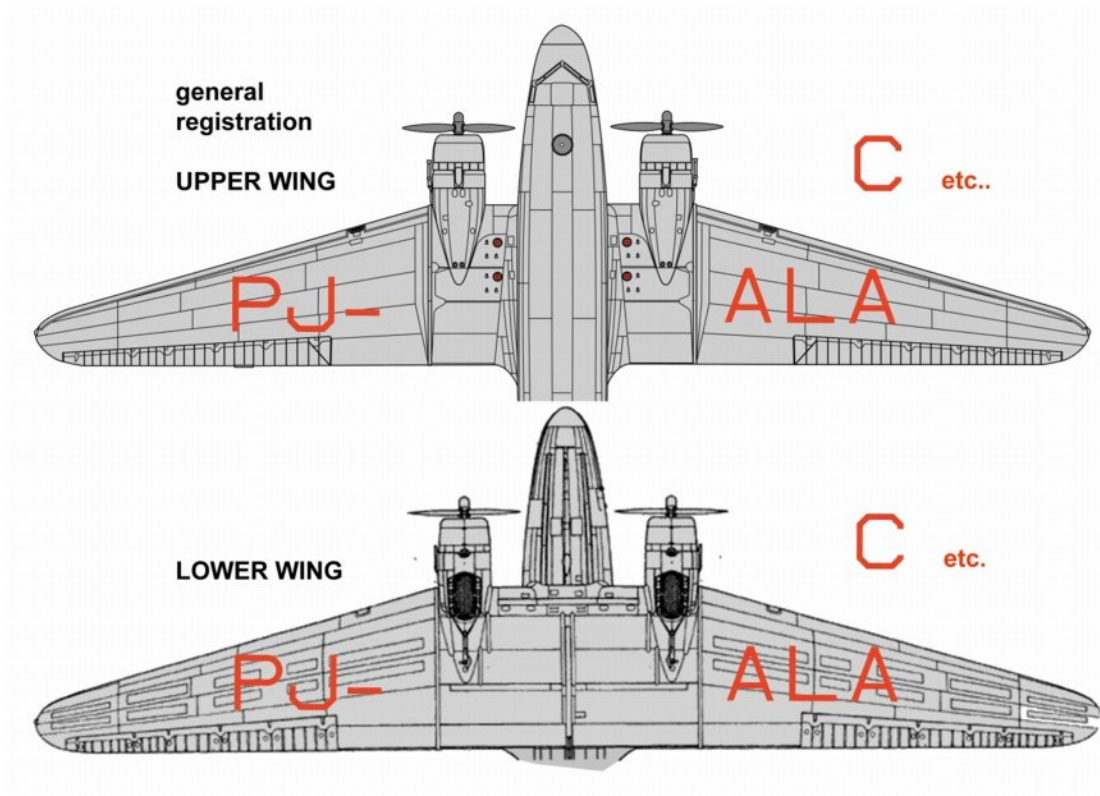
At the tail is the plane registration, the small KLM logo and the smaller titles KONINKLIJKE LUCHTVAART MIJ HOLLAND below the logo (on the white tail). Above the cockpit windows is a small LC code.

It has the standard large wing registrations PJ-ALC on upper and lower wing with KLM font in orange lettering.

Natural metal propeller blades with black edges have yellow tips (at both front and back prop areas).



NOTE: it is UNCLEAR if the **KLM** titles were applied on the forward fuselage sides, but decals are provided.



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