



# BLACK WIDOW P-61

1/48 SCALE

KIT 7546

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The Northrop P-61, was shrouded in secrecy from its inception. Known as the "BLACK WIDOW", it was the first U.S. aircraft designed exclusively as a night fighter. The P-61 was the heaviest aircraft to ever bear the designation "P" for pursuit, with its initial weight of over 27,400 pounds. Specifications of the WIDOW were those of a medium bomber, with a wing span of 66 feet and an overall length of 48 feet 11 inches. Two Pratt and Whitney R-2800 engines powered the P-61A developing initially 1600 horsepower each. The P-61B had two R2800-65 engines, with an increased horsepower of 2200 each. Top speed of this aircraft was over 370 miles per hour.

The P-61 was the most advanced night fighter of its day, possessing incredible capabilities of destruction. Four .50 calibre machine guns were mounted in a dorsal turret and four 20 millimeter cannons in the ventral location on the fuselage pod. The four .50 calibre machine guns were designed initially as defensive weapons and could be controlled by any one of the three crew members, pilot, rear gunner, or radar operator who sat in the extreme rear of the fuselage pod. The dorsal gun turret could be rotated 360° and elevated to a 90° angle.

The first thirty-six P-61A's carried the dorsal turret. The remainder of the A production of 200 had the dorsal turret deleted due to a buffeting problem caused when the turret was rotated.

The P-61B was approximately 8 inches longer than the "A" model, its overall length being 49 feet 7 inches. Of the four hundred-fifty "B's" produced, only the second two hundred had the dorsal turret which was re-introduced. The buffeting problem had been lessened by redesign of the structure. The P-61B also incorporated many improvements requested by pilots who had used the P-61A in combat.

The P-61B was painted an overall gloss black as were many P-61A's, although initially the P-61A was painted in the conventional olive drab over neutral gray. The P-61B, when painted a glossy black, was almost invisible in the night skies.

The premier ace of World War II night fighter fame was Major Carroll C. Smith of the 418th Night Fighter Squadron stationed in the Pacific. On December 29th, 1944, Major Smith and his radar operator, Lt. Phillip Porter, accomplished a feat unheard of in night fighter history as they intercepted and destroyed four Japanese aircraft in a single night with their P-61, "Times A Wastin' ". With these four Japanese aircraft, destroyed off the coast of Mindoro in the Philippines, Major Smith became the highest scoring U.S. Night Fighter Ace with a total of seven kills.

This accurately detailed model was designed from authentic drawings and photos taken of the P-61 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

If you have any problems building this model, call our modeling tips hotline at: **(800) 833-3570**

ZINC CHROMATE

SATIN BLACK

GUNMETAL

FLAT BLACK

GRAY

TAN

YELLOW

FLESH

SATIN WHITE

GOLD

EMERALD

DARK TAN

OLIVE DRAB

NEUTRAL GRAY

BRIGHT RED

ALUMINUM

**PLEASE READ  
CAREFULLY BEFORE  
YOU BEGIN**

Read the instructions and study the assembly drawings to become familiar with all the parts. Refer to the PAINTING and DECAL instructions later in this book for complete body distribution to the appropriate procedure and color code to be used and where the paint should be applied.

As your P-47 may be built to one set of base weights, you may desire an extra which you would follow the page.

Refer to step 4 drawings after step 14 to "A" and "B" versions and for painting colors.

The assembly sequence is written for all base models. The assembly of a specific model is listed by the LATER steps in the main manual. It is used for assembly in manual for all these versions.

Step 1: The assembly parts is glued with identifying numbers appearing in the part to be on a tab next to the corresponding part in the assembly instructions. Identifying numbers are indicated. This method makes it easy for you to locate parts during the assembly.

As you attach parts from the base with glue, you may be left with some glue on the parts. After gluing or finishing all the assembly parts, use some compressed air or brush to clean the glue away with a modeling knife. Available spray glue can be used. Check the list of each part which you cement it is glue.

Step 2: Read the instructions of each step of the assembly of your model and study the list of required materials of each step. All parts coming from the same source are listed in order to make it easy to find the parts. The material used with this manual will show the proper gluing your model's appearance after applying cement to each or individual parts. Use cement as the last of a brushstroke instead of the glue applied in other models. The amount of cement being applied.

For better glue and final appearance, it is suggested to wash the glued parts from in a mild detergent solution. Wash and let dry after washing. Transfer the parts carefully to avoid any which may affect the gluing.

**1**

**FOR ALL VERSIONS EXCEPT "A" (BLACK) NO TOP TURRET**

- Cement pieces 26, 27 and 65 into floor.
- Cement light 27 into instrument panel 28 then panel into floor.
- Cement pilot's seat together using pieces 25, 71 and 66. Then cement seat into floor.

**FOR "A" VERSION (BLACK) NO TOP TURRET**

- Cement seat parts 24 and 62 together.
- Cement lighting post 23 to arm and side of seat.
- Repeat for other seat.
- Cement gear into guides on floor—only one will face rear of airplane—the other must face front as shown.
- Cement two food chute parts 106 into notch in floor as shown.
- Cement chute part 106 into other notch.

**2**

**FOR "A" VERSION (OLIVE DRAB) WITH TOP TURRET AND "B" VERSION (BLACK) WITH TOP TURRET ("A" VERSION BLACK HAS NO TURRET)**

- Place (do not cement) pins on guns 38 into "U" shaped pockets on ring 67.
- With the tip of a toothpick, carefully apply cement ONLY to top of rib on ring.
- Place retainer 70 onto ring.
- Slide (do not cement) cover 64 over pins.
- Cement ring on assembled guns into hole 67 as shown.

**3**

- Slip (do not cement) strut 69 into base 98 as shown.
- Slip (do not cement) retainer 53 over end of strut.
- Cement end of base 98 into slot in base 98. Then slide (do not cement) "U" shape over strut.
- Cement wheel halves 72 and 110 together. Press onto strut.
- MUD GUARD (PART 61) was mostly used on "B" VERSIONS and seldom on "A" VERSIONS. Cement guard into slot under the tab as shown.

**4**

- Cement panel 3 into fuselage 4.
- Cement cannons 30 and 32 into fuselage.
- Repeat for fuselage 5 using cannons 29 and 31 and panel 2.
- Cement assembled floor (FROM STEP 1) into fuselage as shown.

**DECAL POSITION**

**5**

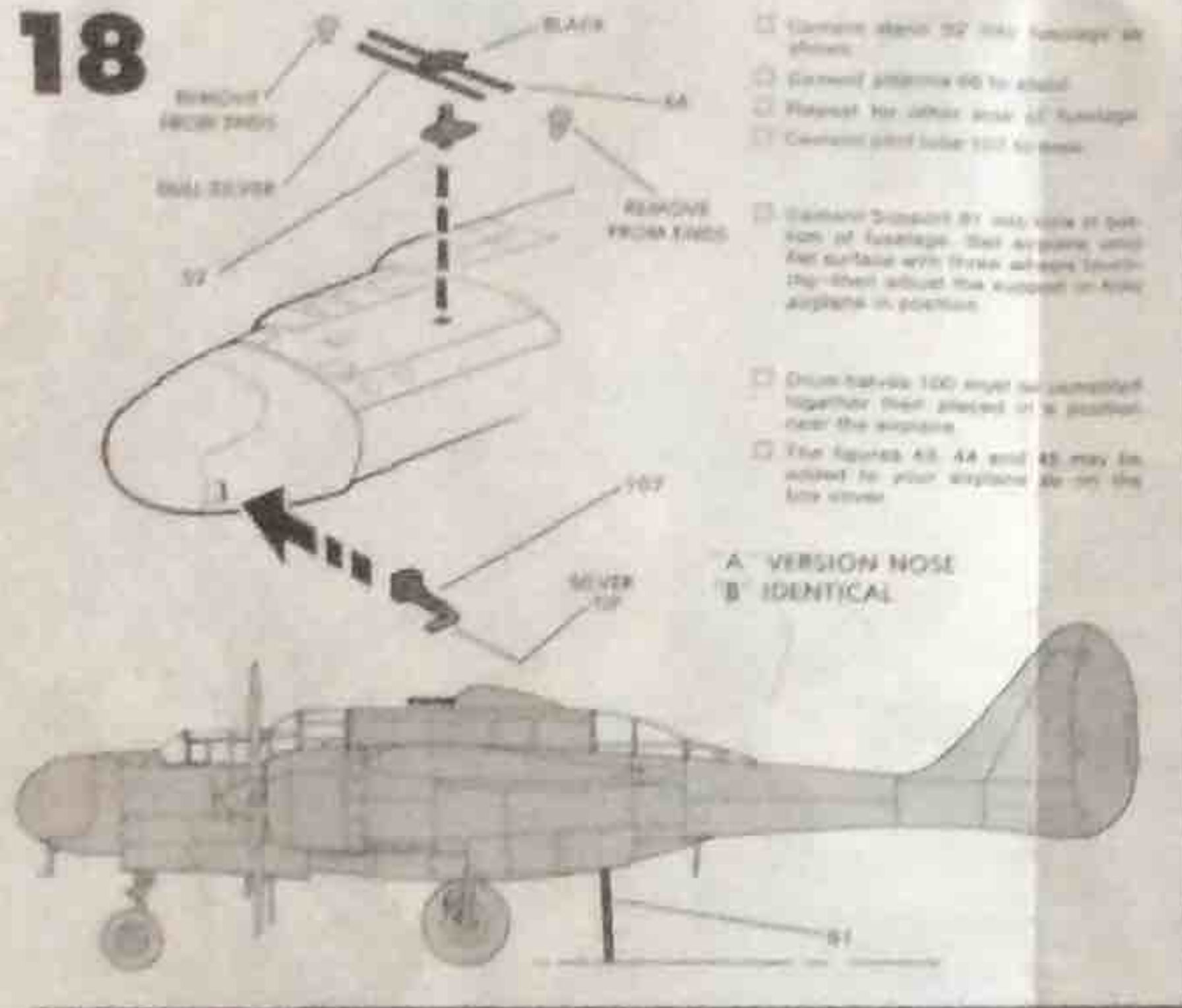
**IF YOU ARE BUILDING A MODEL WITH NO TOP TURRET**

- Cement lower 4 into opening after cementing fuselage together.

**IF YOU ARE BUILDING A MODEL WITH A TOP TURRET**

- Place (do not cement) assembled turret onto side of opening.
- Cement fuselage halves together.
- Cement base with nose wheel into fuselage.





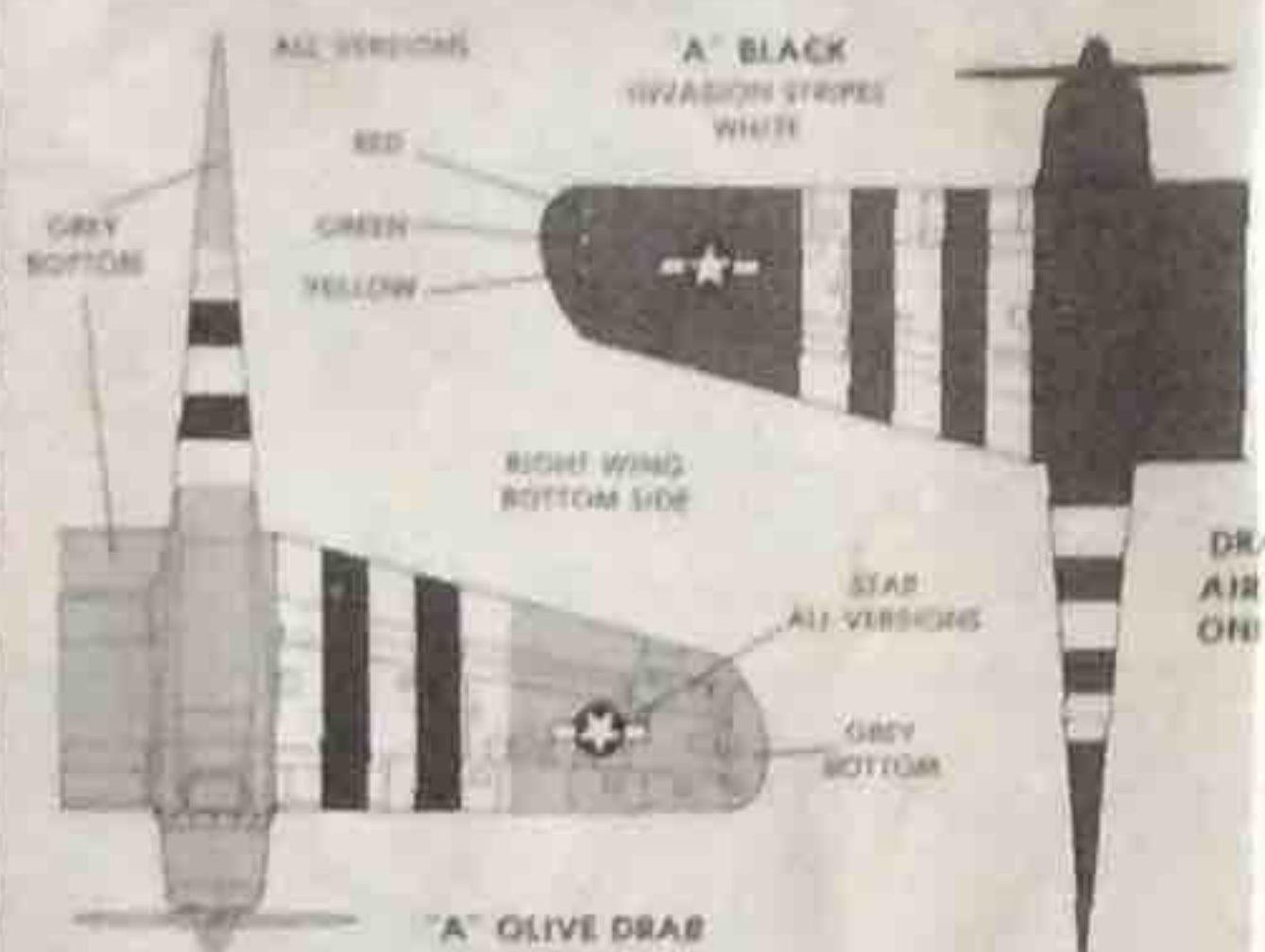
- Turn on side 52 may require an extra
- Cement joints 44 to 45
- Repeat for other side of fuselage
- Cement joint 52 to 51
- Cement 507 to 51
- Cement 507 to 51
- Turn on side 52 may require an extra
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**DECALS**  
When applying decals refer to the location or photo of the specific version you have determined. The numbers shown on the drawings and photos are in reference to those on the decal sheet. These numbers indicate the location of the decal on the model. Larger decals are easily identified by position.

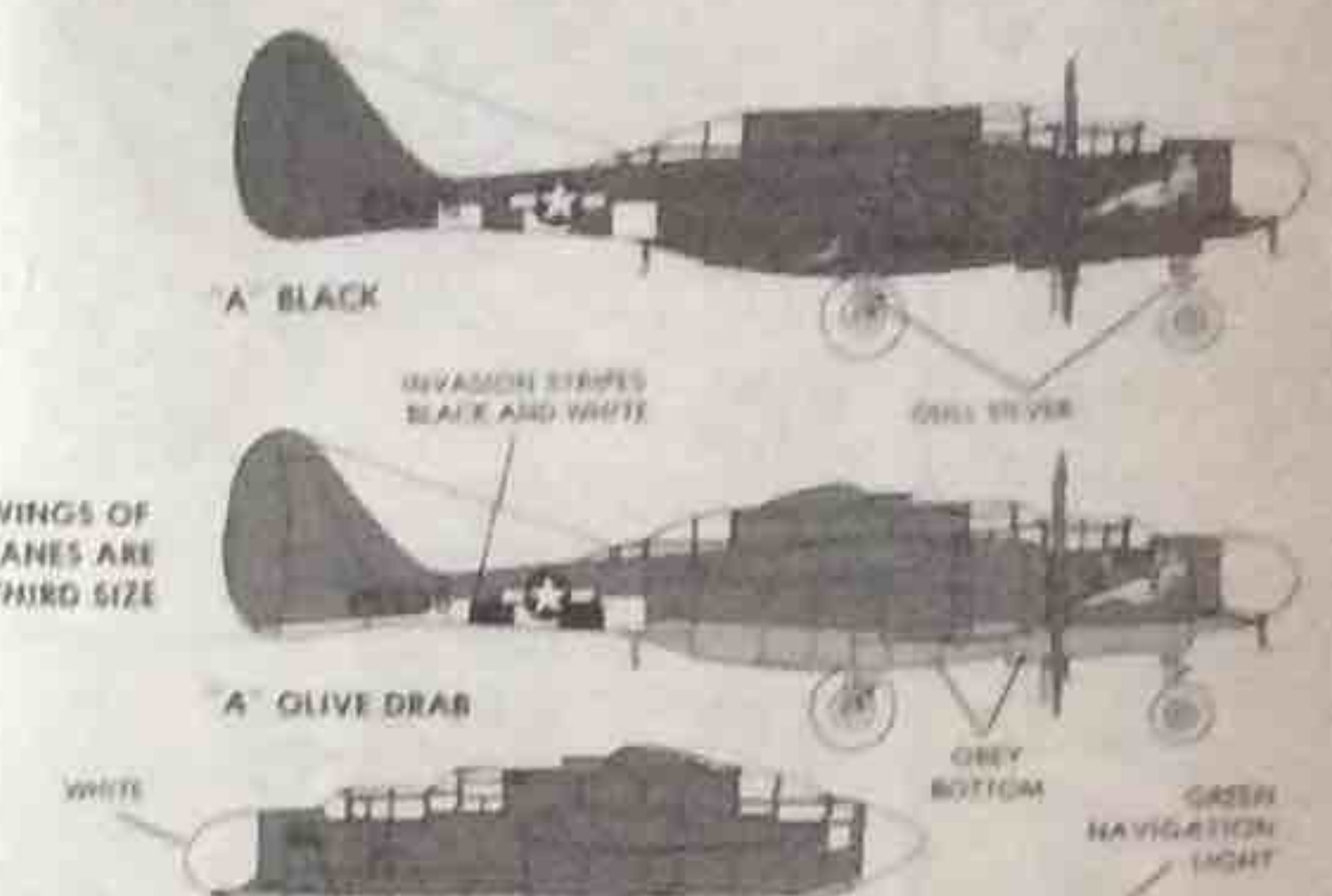
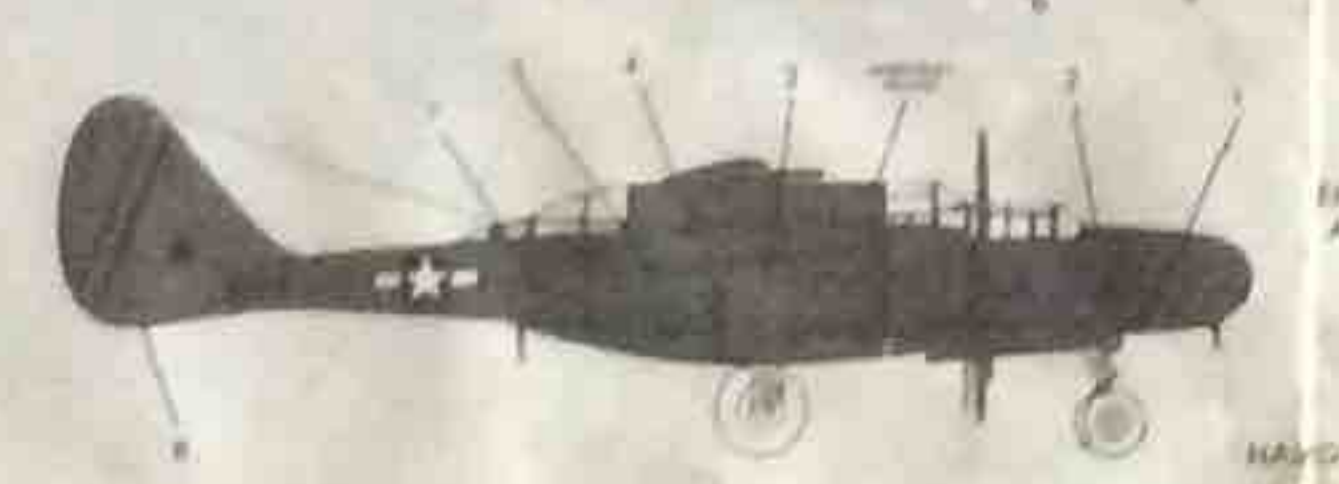
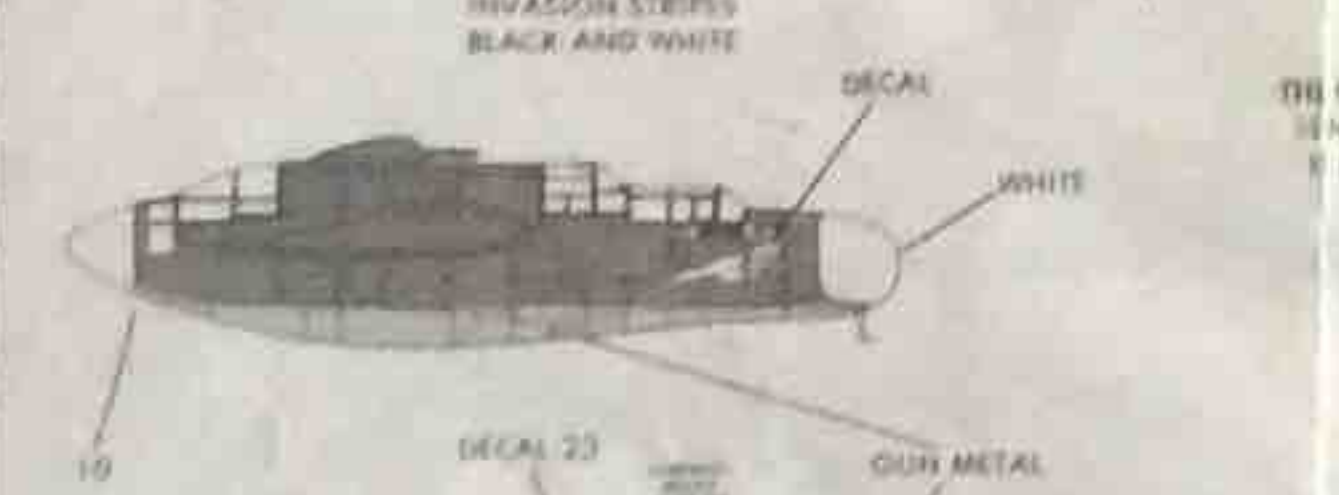
**PAINTING**  
It is best to wait until all the parts are assembled before painting. The large outer surfaces will be sanded and finished after assembly. Only ENAMEL or ACRYLIC paint should be used.

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DRAWINGS OF AIRPLANES ARE ON THIRD SIZE



THE GREY EDGE SHOWN IS NOT A SHARP EDGE IT IS A BLENDED EDGE

BLACK PROPELLER (ACTUAL SIZE)

YELLOW TIPS

RED DOTS

LEFT WING ONLY ALL VERSIONS

RED NAVIGATION LIGHT

TOP VIEW DECAL LOCATIONS IDENTICAL FOR ALL VERSIONS

# BLACK WIDOW P-61

1:48 SCALE KIT 2548

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The premier use of World War II night fighter came when Major Carroll C. Smith of the 41st Night Fighter Squadron stationed in the Pacific. On December 29th, 1944, Major Smith and his radar operator, Lt Philip Barker, accomplished a feat unheard of in night fighter history as they interdicted and destroyed four Japanese aircraft in a single night with their P-61, "Texas A-Weaver". With these four Japanese aircraft destroyed at the cost of Mustang in the Philippines, Major Smith became the highest scoring U.S. Night Fighter Ace with a total of seven kills.

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NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
AGE	SEX	ZIP	ZIP
HOBBIES	HOBBIES	HOBBIES	HOBBIES
HOBBIES	HOBBIES	HOBBIES	HOBBIES