

Lifelike Decals

Limited Edition!

48-023

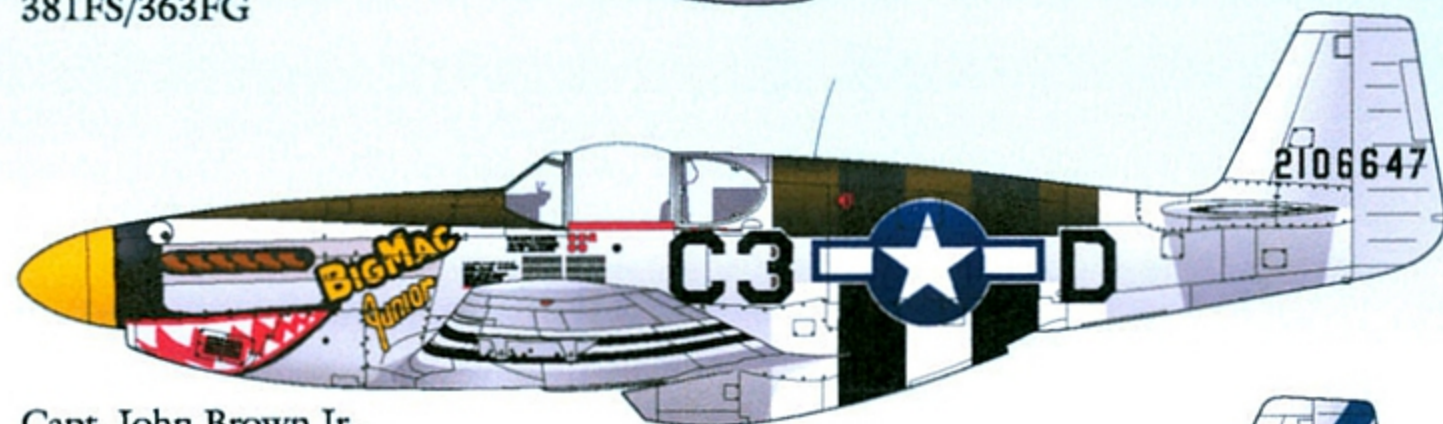
North American P-51 Mustang Pt.2



Lt. Ralph K. Hofer,
334FS/4FG



Capt. Fred Munder Jr.
381FS/363FG



Capt. John Brown Jr.,
382FS/363FG



Lt. Richard Baggett
402FS/370FG

Recommended kits: Tamiya P-51 Mustang

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

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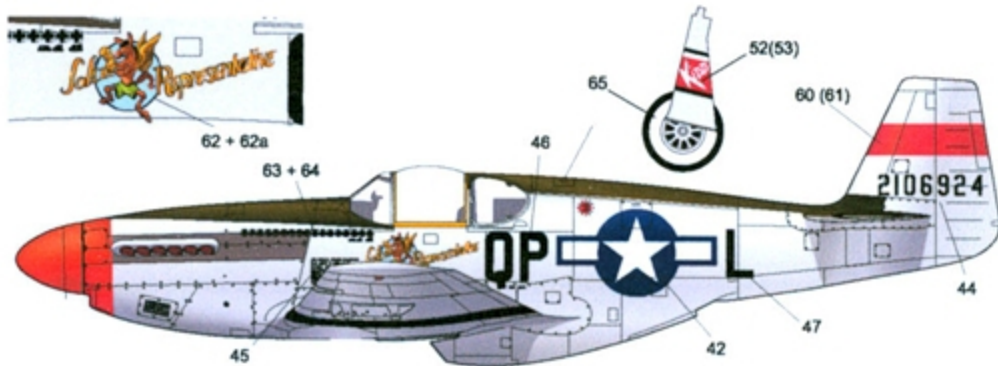
<http://lifelikedecals.sakura.ne.jp>

A/C #1

P-51B-15-NA, 42-106924, flown by Lt. Ralph K. Hofer of 4FG/334FS, Debden AB/England, June 4, 1944.

This is the very famous mount of Lt. Hofer (ref. 1), but with 17 (not 13) kill marks shown below windshield. This is the last photographically confirmed state of "Salem Representative" as shown by the photo in ref. 2. It is finished in NMF with Olive Drab antiglare. As is well-known, only left landing gear cover has "KIDD" on a dark band, which may be red (4FG color) or Olive Drab, and no kill or personal mark are applied on the right side. The band on its vertical tail is red, but those on wings and horizontal stabilizers are obviously black while these are painted in Olive Drab. Thus this is presumably a NMF bird with Olive Drab paint added later.

With the color photo (ref. 3) of Don Allen's work-up for Ralph's P-47 "The Missouri Kid-Show Me", we can know the colors used with the mule mark. But the circle behind the mule of this plane is much lighter than this workup (light brown is used). It is much lighter than red (like "Miss Plain-



field") or blue (like "Miss Dallas"), so maybe light blue or yellow (as with "Shangri-La"), but as the letter "Salem Representative" is known to be yellow, we chose light blue. Photos in ref.2 show that Malcom hood canopy frame is painted in a light color, probably yellow.

Lt. Hofer's death on July 2nd 1944 remained a

mystery for a long time, and many believed Major Erich Hartmann or Walter Boener (ref. 4) shot him down, but ref. 2 clearly shows that he was lost to an anti-aircraft fire guarding the Mostar-Süd airfield/Yugoslavia while returning to an Italian AB from a Shuttle Mission. His A/C (QP-X, 43-6746) hit one of the guns, and killed two people. His body was buried in a local cemetery, and later buried again in his hometown.

A/C #2

P-51D-5-NA, 44-14059, flown by Capt. Fred Munder Jr. of 363FG/381FS, Maupertus AS or Azeville AS, July-August 1944.

This is the A/C Capt. Munder flew as the leader of 381FS in the summer of 1944, and is in NMF with Olive Drab antiglare. In early September 1944 363FG was re-assigned as Tactical Reconnaissance Group, and Capt. Munder returned home. The first of Mr. Miller's book (ref. 5) on this FG did not show any photo of this A/C (just showing its name "SKYZAR"). Ref. 6 was the first book to show the photo of the big eagle emblem, but Miller's second book (ref. 7) finally established the full marking of this A/C with two new photos. Its name and eagle emblem is painted in a very dark color (darker than red on nose), so maybe they



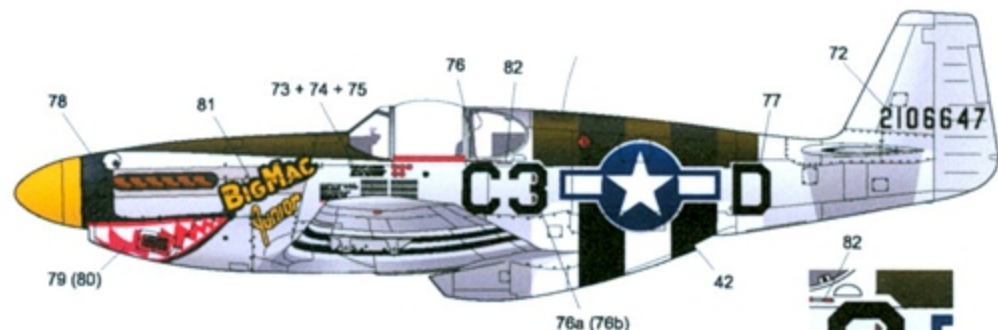
are painted in black. From the photo of the full right side view, Olive Drab paint may have been added on the spine from canopy to root of horizontal stabilizers (including antenna). Capt. Munder completed 62 missions, but did not score any kind of kills.



A/C #3

P-51B-10-NA, 42-106647, flown by Capt. John Brown Jr. of 363FG/382FS, Maupertus AS/ France, August 1944.

This is the A/C flown by Capt. Brown Jr. of 363 FG, and was the subject of the very old Revell P-51B kit, but since then no decal has featured this marking. It is finished in NMF with Olive Drab antiglare. In total 3 photos of this A/C are known (ref. 5 & 7). The first photo shows it with black spinner and without Invasion Stripes. Two other photos show its later stage with yellow spinner, Malcom hood and Invasion Stripes. The upper half of the Invasion Stripes was finally painted over with Olive Drab, but close scrutiny of the photo shows that NMF area is left around the code letters when Olive Drab was applied. Strangely some Olive Drab paint was left inside "3". Swastika inside kill marks and canopy bottom frame is painted in a darker color than "BIGMAC",



and maybe red. Capt. Brown was a member of 362FG and 414FG before joining 363FG, and completed 61 missions in March to August 8, 1944, when he went MIA. He scored one probable in the air, and 4 kills + 8 damaged on the ground.



A/C #4

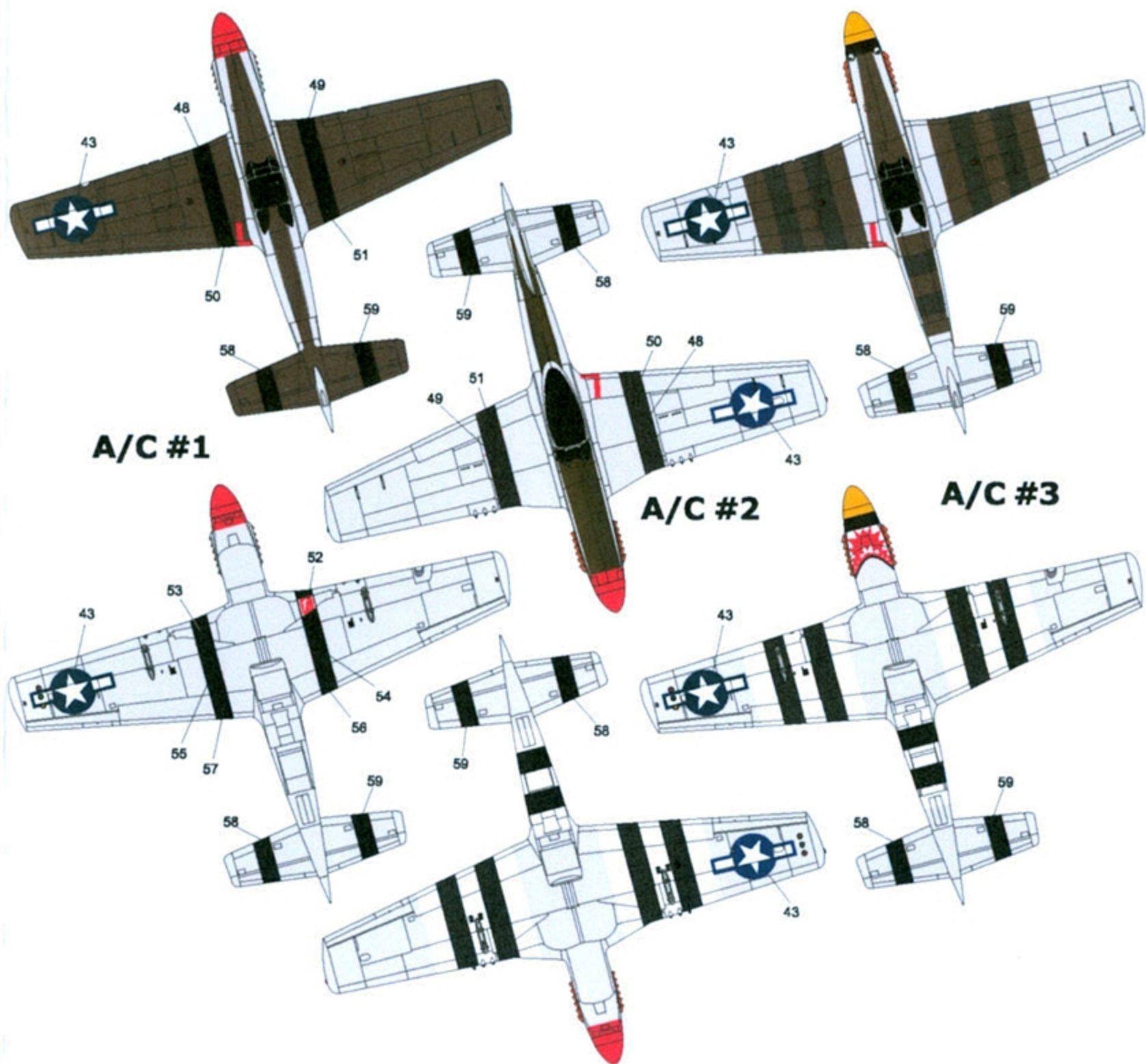
P-51D-20-NA, 44-72322, flown by Lt. Richard Baggett of 370FG/402FS, Gütersloh/Germany, May 1945.

This is the A/C flown by Lt. Baggett of 370FG in the late stage of war, and its photos are shown in several references (ex. Ref. 6, 8-10). When 370FG was re-equipped with P-51 in February 1945, they painted entire spinner/nose/antiglare and tail band in their Squadron colors (blue for 402FS), and blue color was also applied on the lower canopy frame of this A/C. There are a few patterns on the nose marking, but this A/C had 3 flashes. The air scoop on the nose is painted in yellow.



Nancy was the name of pilot's daughter born in July 1944, and the nude figure on the right side is on a light-colored disc which we thought light blue. The career or victory tally of Lt. Baggett is not well known, but he lived through the war as a member of 402FS.





References;

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4. American Fighter Aces Album (J.W. Boyce, American Fighter Aces Association, 1996)
5. Seven Months over Europe (K.D. Miller, private publication, 1989)
6. P-51 Mustang Nose Art Gallery (J.M. & D. Campbell, Motorbooks, 1994)
7. The 363rd Fighter Group in World War II (K.D. Miller, Schiffer Military History Book, 2002)
8. War Paint-Fighter Nose Art from WWII & Korea (J.M. & Donna Campbell, Motorbooks, 1990)
9. Walk Around P-51D (L. Davis, Squadron/Signal, 1996)
10. The 370th Fighter Group in World War II (J. Jones, Schiffer Military History, 2003)