

#### Lodestar and Hudson on the BOAC Stockholm Run

BOAC's wartime route between Leuchars and Stockholm played an important role in linking Britain with neutral Sweden for exchanging diplomatic mail, and carrying passengers, vital war materials like ball bearings and even propaganda material. When BOAC first conducted wartime flights between the UK and Sweden, they were operating a small fleet of Lockheed 14 Super Electras. In 1941, BOAC took over some RAF Lockheed Hudson Mk.IIIs that gradually replaced the Super Electras. Coincidentally the Norwegians were establishing their own service between Britain and Sweden, to fly out refugees that had escaped from German-occupied Norway and maintain a channel of communication between the Norwegian authorities-in-exile in Britain, and the legation in Stockholm. As the Norwegians did not have a concession to operate a service between Britain and Sweden, the Lockheed Lodestars that they had acquired in the USA were operated under the BOAC concession, and the aircraft were allocated British registrations. In 1943, the umbrella organization Royal Norwegian Air Transport took control of the Lodestar flights, albeit still operating under the BOAC concession and with BOAC markings.

#### Modelling notes

A 1/72 scale Hudson kit was originally released by Airfix back in 1960. This is typical of early Airfix kits, with rather sparse detailing. A new kit of the Hudson was released by MPM in 2006, first as British Mk.I/II variants, with American A-29/PBO-1 variants in a different box. Both are with Wright Cyclone GR-1820-102A engines. The Mk.I/II kit and has since been reboxed by Revell. The Hudson kit was also released by Italeri as the Mk.IV/V, with Pratt & Whitney R-1830-SC3G Twin Wasp engines. The Mk.III, that BOAC operated had an improved version of the Wright Cyclone GR-1820-102A engines, which makes the Mk.I/II kits as the best base kit.

Special Hobby, a subsidiary of MPM, has released a kit of the Lockheed C-60 Lodestar, i.e. the Model 18-56 powered by Wright R-1820-87 engines. This kit is based on the Hudson kit, with a new fuselage. The Model 18-40 was powered by the G-1820-G104A, which externally was the same as for the 18-56. The Model 18-10 was powered by the Pratt & Whitney S1C3-G Twin Wasp engines, which are essentially the same as the engines installed in the Hudson Mk.IV/V. Engines can thus be taken from the Italeri Hudson kit, or the Quick Boost correction set (cowlings only).

The Model 18-10 Lodestars were built as passenger aircraft, fitted with a fully insulated interior with passenger seats. The Model 18-40 Lodestars were configured as military transport aircraft with benches along the fuselage sides. The exact configuration of the interior of the Hudson aircraft is not known. Most aircraft eventually had the passenger cabin windows blanked off, to avoid interior lighting revealing the position of the aircraft to the enemy.

#### Painting notes

The Lodestars featured on this decal sheet were painted in American variants of Dark Green and Dark Earth, with Sky Gray lower surfaces. The undersides were repainted in MAP Aluminium before the aircraft entered service. The Hudsons were painted in MAP colours also on the upper surfaces. In 1943, the aircraft were repainted with Night undersides. Some aircraft also had the upper side colours changed to the "sea colours", i.e. Extra Dark Sea Grey and Dark Slate Grey.

#### Decal application

The decals have a very thin carrier film and need to be handled with care. Individual decals should be cut out and soaked for a few seconds in lukewarm water. Slide the decal from the paper over to the model's surface without wrinkling. Avoid moving the decal excessively to avoid tearing the film and washing off the adhesive. The carrier film will at first seem rigid and difficult to lay down over complex surfaces, but using decal solutions like Micro Set and Micro Sol will make them snuggle down over detail and make them look painted on when completely dry. Use the strong solutions just over the complex surfaces though, not the entire decal as this may cause colour layers to crimp. In case of overlaying decals, always make sure that the lower decal is completely dry before applying the next one. For best results, decals should always be applied to a gloss surface.

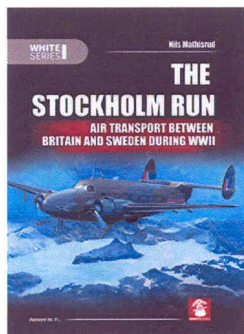
#### Thanks

Thanks to Jens Håkon Brandal for help with the instructions.

**Lockheed 18-40 Lodestar, G-AGEI Loch Loen.** BOAC, Norwegian Detachment, 1942. The aircraft was painted in American variants of Dark Green and Dark Earth on the upper surfaces, with MAP Aluminium lower surfaces.

**Lockheed 18-10 Lodestar, G-AGDD Loch Losna.** BOAC, RNAT, 1944. Extra Dark Sea Grey and Dark Slate Grey upper surfaces with Night lower surfaces.

**Lockheed Hudson Mk.III, G-AGDC Loch Lomond.** BOAC, 1944. Extra Dark Sea Grey and Dark Slate Grey upper surfaces with Night lower surfaces. The cabin windows are blanked off, possibly by plywood.

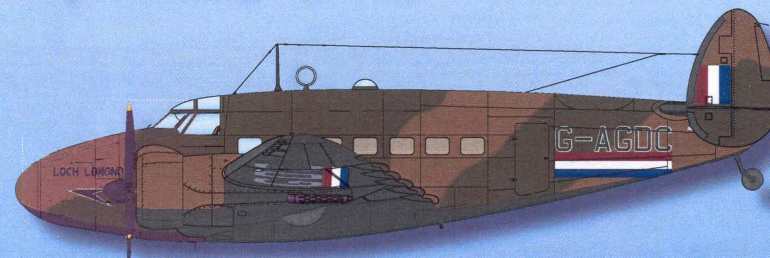
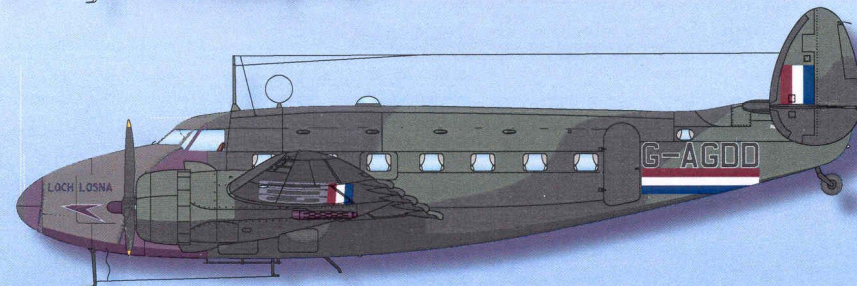
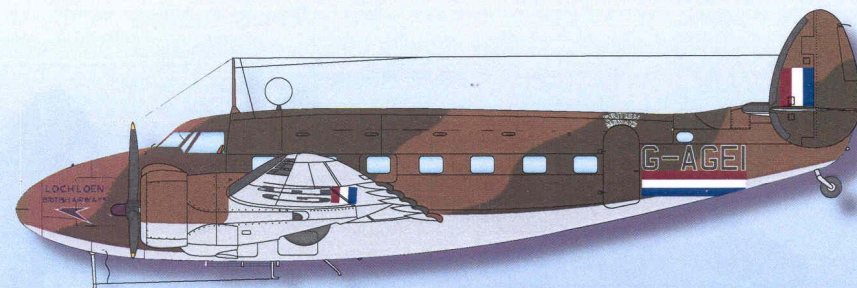


The full history of *The Stockholm Run* can be read in the book with the same title, by Nils Mathisrud, published by MMP Books. The book is fully illustrated.

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## Lockheed Lodestar & Hudson British Overseas Airways Corporation



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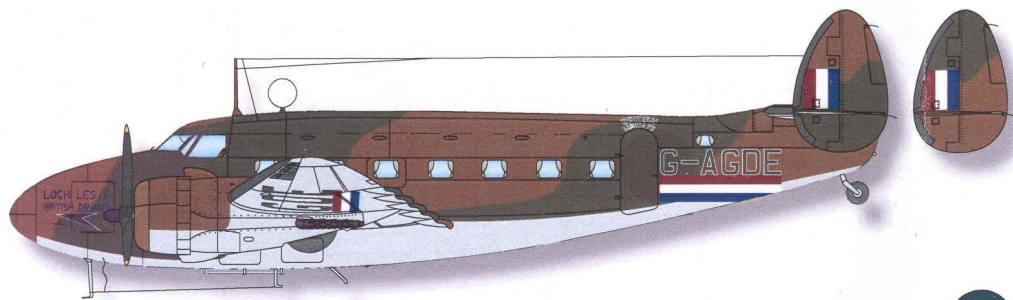
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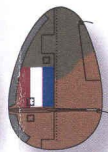
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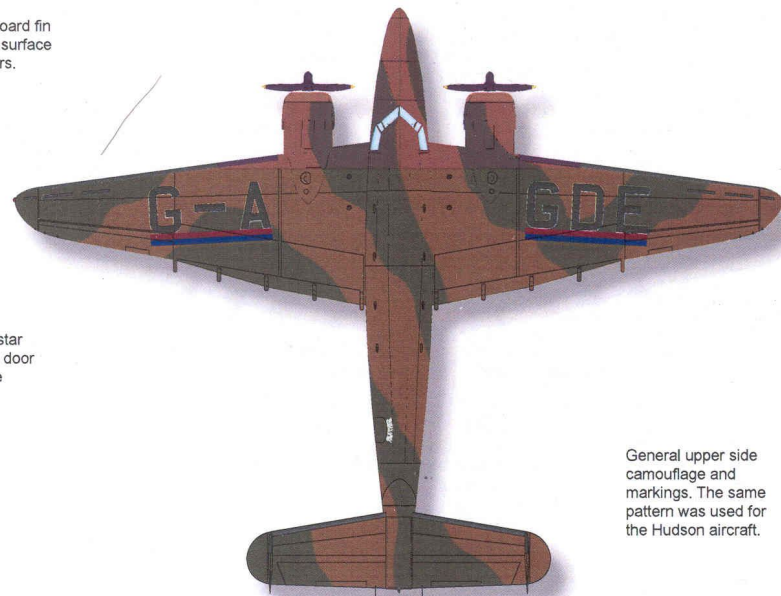




Starboard fin inner surface colours.

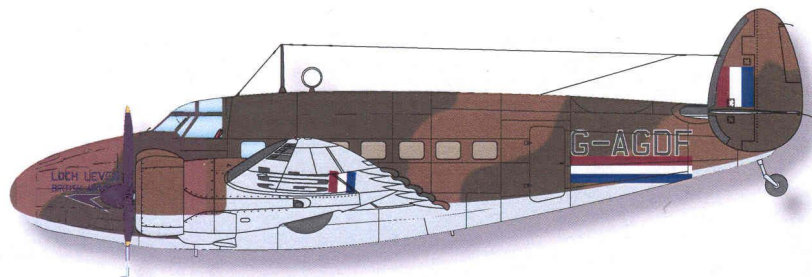


Lodestar cabin door inside

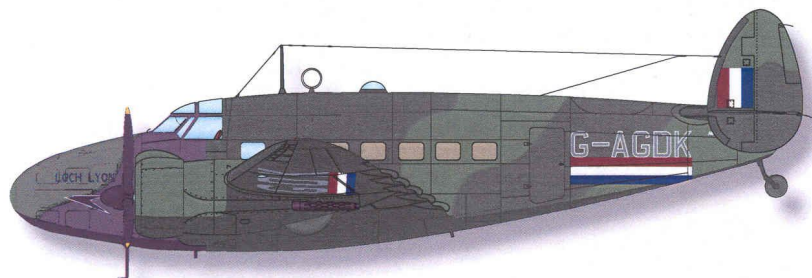


General upper side camouflage and markings. The same pattern was used for the Hudson aircraft.

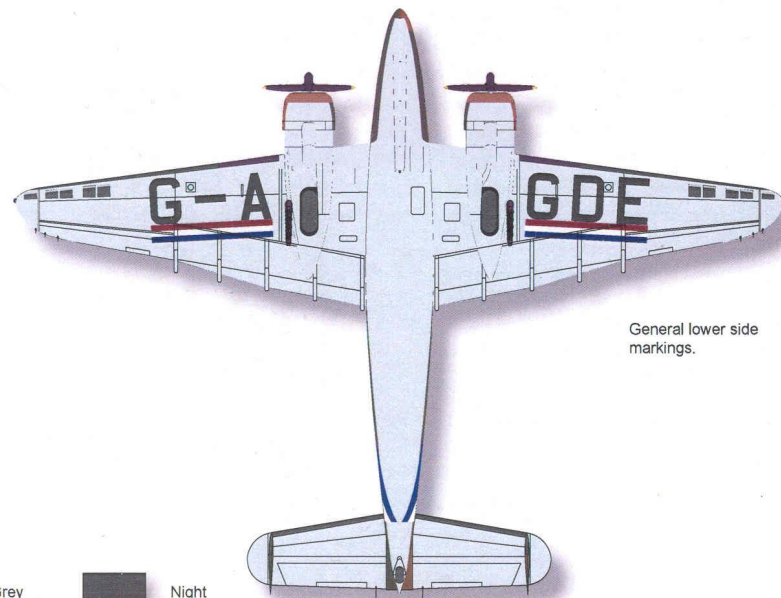
Lockheed 18-10 Lodestar, G-AGDE *Loch Lesja*. BOAC, Norwegian Detachment, 1941. The exact engine cowling front colour is not known, it is believed to be a light brown.



Lockheed Hudson Mk.III, G-AGDF *Loch Leven*. BOAC, 1942. Capt Erik Engnæs made a force landing on the sea at Gullmarsfjorden, a fjord near Smögen and Lysekil, north of Gothenburg 23 June 1942.



Lockheed Hudson Mk.III, G-AGDK *Loch Lyon*. BOAC, 1943.



General lower side markings.

**Note:** The B in the BRITISH AIRWAYS titles for *Loch Leven* is missing the silver outline. Replace this with the separate BRITISH AIRWAYS decal.

	Dark Green		Extra Dark Sea Grey		Night
	Dark Earth		Dark Slate Grey		Aluminium