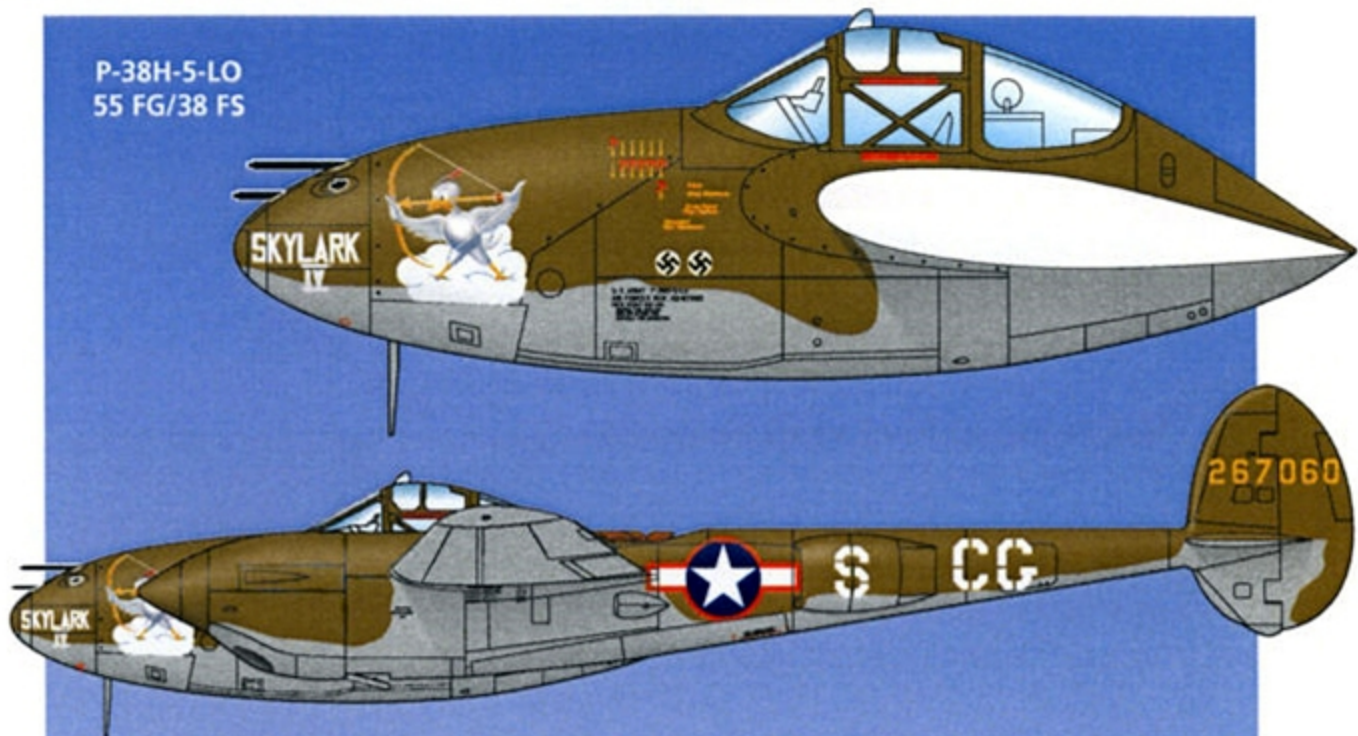


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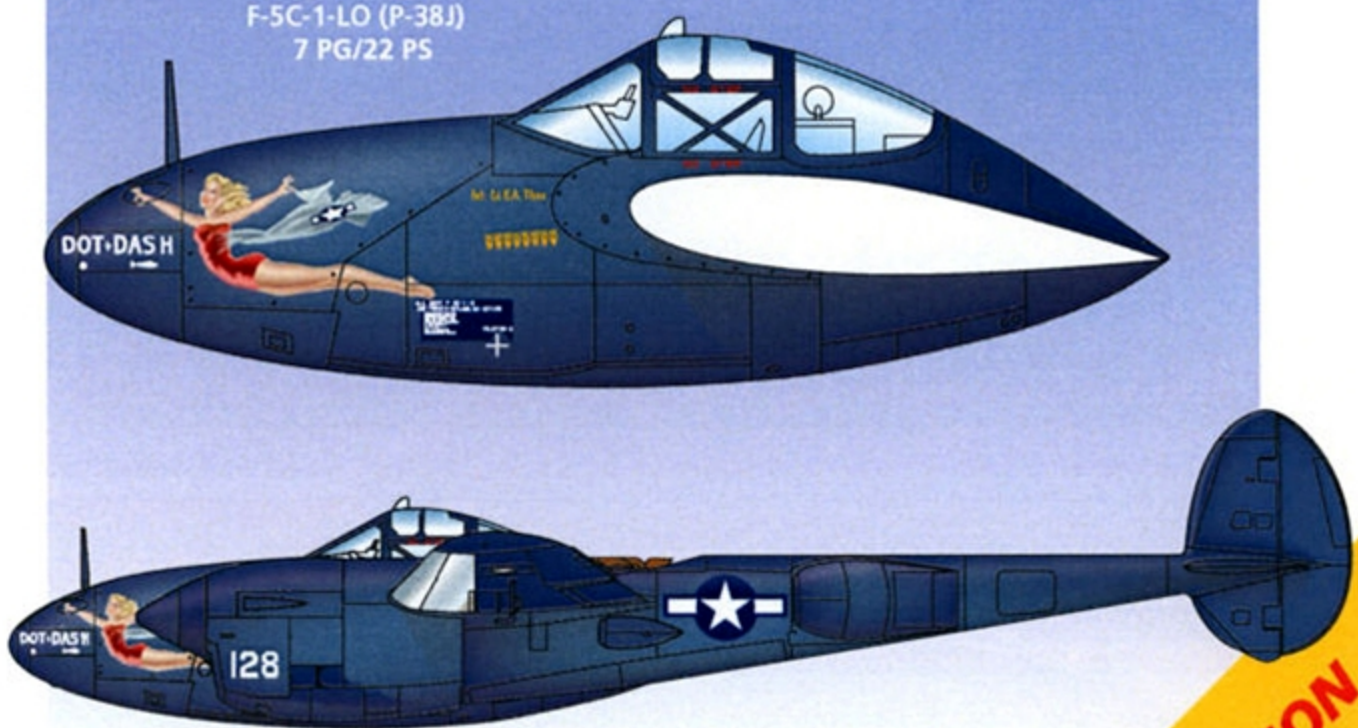
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**SPECIAL BENEFIT
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P-38H-5-LO
55 FG/38 FS



F-5C-1-LO (P-38J)
7 PG/22 PS



Fork-tailed Beauties Part 4

**LIMITED EDITION
OF 300!**



Red drop shadow on all letters.
Apply red decal first, then yellow.

PYND48039

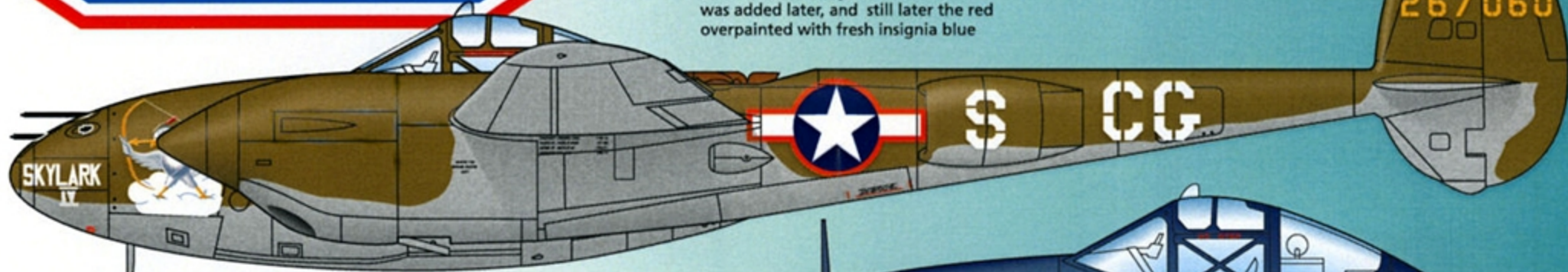


P-38H-5-LO
55 FG/38 FS

Maj Mark Shipman
Nothampstead, England
November 1943

The star-and-bar was originally the round cocarde only; the red outline was added later, and still later the red overpainted with fresh insignia blue

See text for notes on possible outlines



F-5C-1-LO
7 PG/22 PS

Lt E. A. Thies
Col Paul Cullen
Lt Claude Murray
Mount Farm, England
May 1944

Two options provided



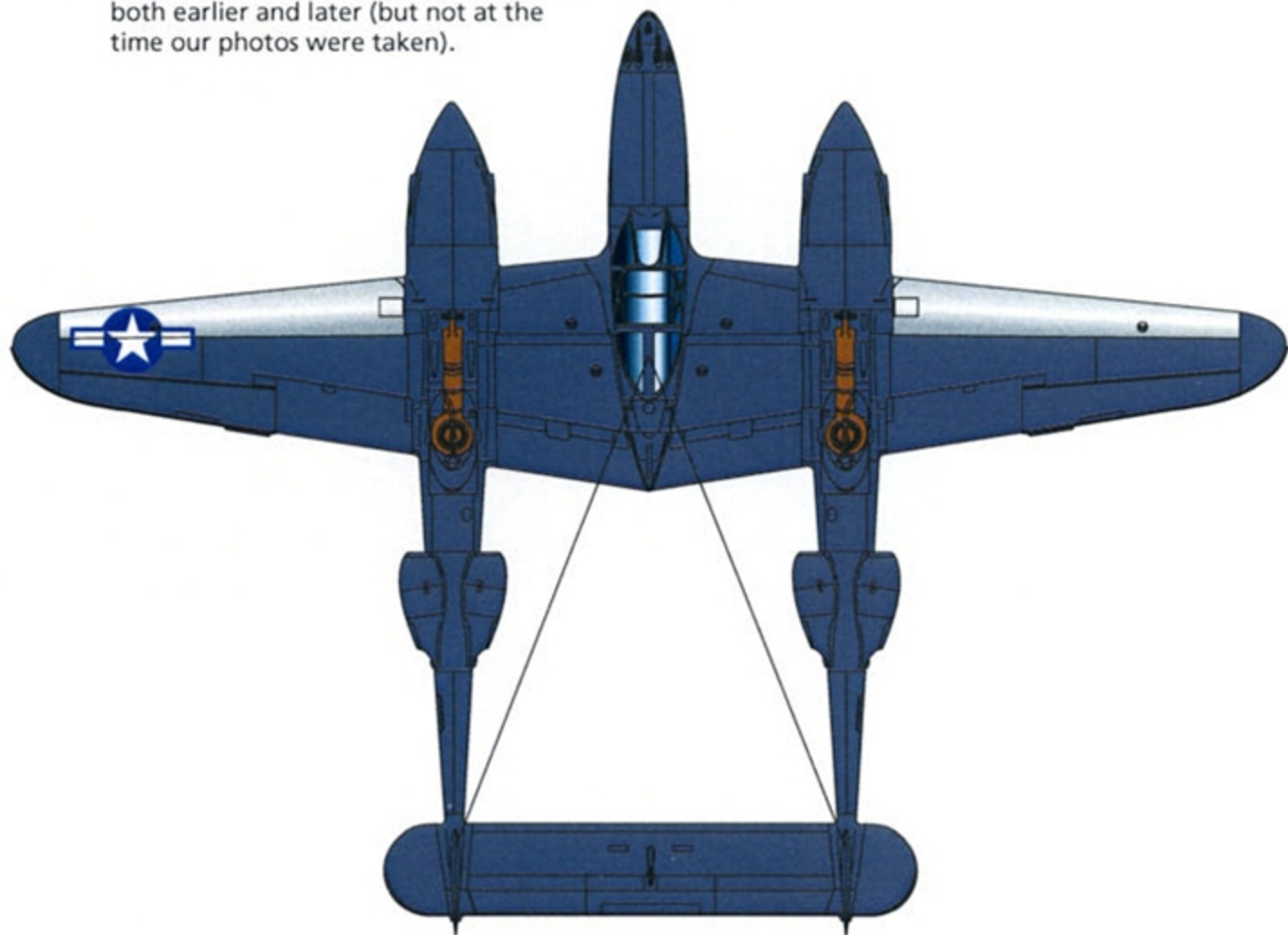
Synthetic Haze colors

- Sky Base Blue
- Flight Blue

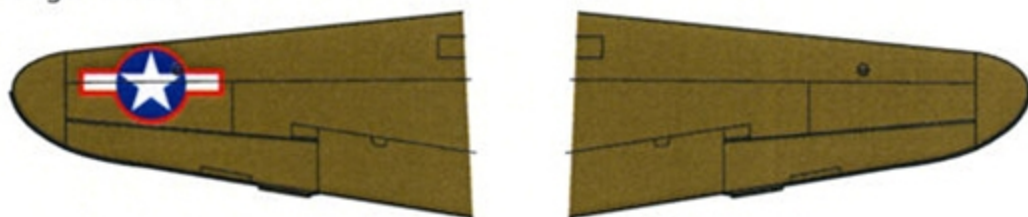
See text for notes

Note natural metal leading edges (both wings)

The leading edges were natural metal back to the first spar. These were the field-installed leading edge fuel tanks, and were painted Haze both earlier and later (but not at the time our photos were taken).



Note the star-and-bar was originally the round cocarde only; the red outline was added later, and still later the red overpainted with fresh insignia blue



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Applying the Specialty Nose Art

PYN-ups has supplied you with the thinnest possible decal material to create a true masterpiece on your model. Extra care is required when handling these decals! Because these decals are so thin, you may prefer to brush a coat of Microscale Liquid Decal Film over the top of the special nose art. This will dry in an extremely thin layer and will not add much thickness to our special decal.

After applying the white background decal from the main decal sheet, carefully trim around the nose art decal to separate it from the rest of the paper. Only use room temperature water. Do NOT leave the decal in the water by itself. The material will curl on you. Place the image in the water and hold the opposite edges down against the paper (either with your fingers or cotton swabs) and wait for the decal to separate from the paper. Once it has separated, the tendency to curl will have passed for the most part. Gently slide the nose art decal on top of the previously applied white background decal.

Skylark IV

- Shipman flew 53 missions in P-38s with the 14th FG in North Africa before joining the 55th in April 1943. He eventually rose to become deputy group commander before completing his tour in February 1944.
- He scored 2.5 victories with the 14th FG and 1.5 with the 55th.
- The Skylark was one of several nose art paintings done by Sgt Robert T. Sand, who worked in the 55th's propeller shop. Sand was responsible for the art on such famous planes as Jerry Ayres' "Mountain Ayres," Joe Myers' "Journey's End," and Jack Jenkins' "Texas Ranger," among others.
- The nose gun cover door on which the bird was painted was transferred in turn to several aircraft, a not uncommon occurrence. In fact, you can easily see where the bottom of the cloud, which originally crossed onto the fuselage (on an earlier Skylark), was cut off when the armament door was transferred to 42-67060.
- This specific aircraft, Skylark IV, was lost on January 5th, 1944, when the 38th FS was bounced by enemy fighters near Kiel, Germany. Her pilot that day was Lt Herbert T. Winter, who was killed in the attack.
- We do not believe the two kill markings had a thin black outline. One photo seems to imply they might have had such a thin outline, so we've provided separate black circles in case you wish to apply them.
- The crew names block was yellow with a thin red drop shadow. Apply the red decal first, then apply the yellow decal slightly HIGHER and to the RIGHT (aft) of the red decal. Thus, the red drop shadow is below and to the left of the yellow names.
- The original national insignia on this ship was the simple blue/white cocarde with star. Later the bars were added and the entire insignia outlined in red, and shortly thereafter the red was changed to fresh Insignia Blue. We've provided both red and blue outlined versions on our decal sheet.
- Note the squadron code letters, "CG," were applied parallel to the direction of flight. Some 38th FS aircraft had these code letters applied at a noticeable up angle such that the centerline of the squadron code was parallel to the centerline of the boom itself.
- Although one source claims the individual code letter was "A," we believe the other more reliable sources which state the code letter was "S" as shown in our artwork. Both the "S" and "A" code letters are included on the decal sheet.

Dot-Dash

- Although Lt Edward Thies was the regular pilot of this recce ship, he was not flying the plane on its most famous mission of May 25th, 1944, when Col Paul Cullen flew it to Poltava in the Ukraine. Cullen, formerly the 7th Photo Group commander and an extremely experienced recce pilot, was at that time the Deputy Director of Operations, Eastern Command.
- Cullen was accompanied on this first reconnaissance mission for the shuttle bombing missions to the Soviet Union by Capt Frank Carney, another pilot in the 7th PG. Although Cullen and Dot-Dash were feted at the time as the first 8th Air Force pilot and aircraft to land in the Soviet Union—a claim widely repeated afterwards—documents prove that Carney had in fact landed his own ship about 15 minutes before Cullen.
- Dot-Dash's nose art artist is not recorded, but the painting was based on Alberto Varga's famous "They're Always Be A Christmas" illustration that appeared in the December 1943 Esquire Magazine.
- This ship was lost on October 6th, 1944, over Holland. The pilot that day, Lt Claude Murray, bailed out and evaded capture with the assistance of the Dutch underground. Murray always believed he had been shot down by a Me 262 jet fighter.
- F-5C aircraft were P-38J-5-LOs modified for photo reconnaissance at modification centers. Vertical cameras

- were installed, but the original P-38J nose cone with gun ports was not removed; only the gun troughs were faired over. No oblique cameras were installed, so the nose does not have side camera windows.
- The synthetic Haze finish on this ship was comprised of two colors. The base color was Sky Base Blue (a bit darker than FS 15123, but matt) with Flight Blue (FS 35190) lightly mottled over the sides of the aircraft. The undersides were more heavily covered with the lighter color and the heaviest concentration of the light color was were the shadow areas where the wings and tail surfaces met the fuselage. Note the Flight Blue color completely obliterates the serial numbers normally applied to the outboard sides of the vertical fins and rudders.
 - The history and applications of Haze and Synthetic Haze have been well covered by my friend Dana Bell, especially in his FineScale Modeler article (see the references). I strongly recommend you obtain a copy of that FSM issue!
 - This ship had a huge amount of touch-up overpainting in soem lighter color (presumably Flight Blue in heavy concentration) along panel lines and the edges of removable panels. In fact, its appearance was more akin to a modern US Navy jet on a cruise than a WW II Army Air Force plane! If you can imagine what a modern Navy jet looks like at the end of a cruise, you'll have a good mental picture of the way Dot-Dash looked at the time of our photos (which cover a considerable length of time).
 - The natural metal wing leading edges shown in our illustrations were field intalled leading edge fuel tanks. They were still unpainted when Col Cullen flew the Poltava mission. Our photos show they were later overpainted with synthetic haze paint, and of course the original leading edges (without fuel tanks) were in synthetic haze paint.

Applying the Decals

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model. Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

FS 595 Color Cross Reference

Olive Drab	FS 4087 Xtracolor X111, Floquil 303108/303170/303263, Gunze Sangyo H304, Modelmaster 1711, Mr Color 304, Pro Modeler 88-0028
Neutral Gray	FS 6173 Xtracolor X158, Gunze Sangyo H053, Pro Modeler 88-0035, Floquil 303176
Sky Base Blue	FS 5123 Humbrol HU 13, Tamiya X04 (add a bit ot black)
Flight Blue	FS5190 none available

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