

**eduard**

**LIMITED**



# GUADALCANAL

1/48

F4F-4 Wildcat early/late serving from August 1942 to June 1943

## INSTRUCTION SHEET

**DUAL COMBO**

11170-NAV1

# GRUMMAN SAVES GUADALCANAL

By THOMAS McKELVEY CLEAVER

Photo: USMC



It was said at the time that "Grumman saved Guadalcanal." This was a reference to the main fighter used for defense of the island during the dark days of August–November 1942, when senior Allied commanders expressed serious doubt about the ability of the Marines to hang onto their narrow perimeter around Henderson Field in the face of unrelenting air attacks, seaborne attacks by the Imperial Navy and attempts by Imperial Army troops to retake the Marine positions.

The fighter that accomplished this – the F4F-4 Wildcat – was not the best of the Wildcat line; in fact, it had the worst performance of any Wildcat sub-type. This was due to the fact, that it weighed far more than its F4F-3 predecessor due to the addition of folding wings with their accompanying machinery, and two more .50-caliber machine guns. This was all done without any increase in power from the R-1820 radial. The weight increase was so severe that to limit it as much as possible, while there was an increase in weapons, there was not an increase in ammunition. The same amount of ammo carried by the F4F-3 for its four guns was now distributed among six, with a reduction in firing time of 14 seconds – an eternity in air combat. The F4F-4 lost one-third of its climb rate as compared to the F4F-3. Marion Carl, one of the leading pilots at Guadalcanal, related that the performance of the F4F-4 was not that different from the Brewster F2A-3, due to the same reason: an increase in weight without an increase in power. He went on to say that if the Marines had been equipped with the much-condemned F2A-3 rather than the F4F-4, and had used the same tactics they developed, "the result would have been the same."

The F4F-4 was originally developed in response to a request from the Royal Navy, whose Fleet Air Arm was using the 4-gun Martlet I, for an increase in armament to increase the weight of fire for fighters that were going up against large well-armed opponents like the Fw-200 Condor; they were more concerned with weight of fire for the single pass the fighter would likely get than length of fire. Both the U.S. Navy and Royal Navy wanted folding wings to increase the number of

fighters that could be aboard their aircraft carriers. Grumman's newly -developed "Sto-Wing" that had been created for the TBF-1 Avenger, allowed the outer wing to twist almost vertical and then fold back-wards. Two and a half F4F-4s with wings folded could occupy the same hangar deck space as one F4F-3 that lacked wing folding.

Fortunately, the Japanese had only one air base from which to mount attacks – Rabaul, 600-odd miles distant at the other end of the Solomons Archipelago. The A6M2 Zero fighters and G4M1 bombers were operating at extreme range. Due to the weather in the South Pacific, they were unable to take off early, and arrived over Guadalcanal every time around the noon hour. Their route from Rabaul on the island of New Britain to Guadalcanal took them down the Solomon Islands chain, where Australian coast watchers could follow them and report their progress. By the time they passed over New Georgia, they were an hour out from Guadalcanal and the defending fighters would be launched. It took nearly every minute of that hour to coax the slow-climbing F4F-4 all the way up to 23,000 feet, from which point they could launch a diving attack on the Japanese formation 2,000–3,000 feet below.

The Marines' tactic was to make one diving pass, depending on the Wildcat's weight to give them a speed advantage over the lighter and slower-diving A6M2. Fortunately, the G4M1 Land Attack Bomber known to the Americans as the "Betty" was lightly constructed and largely unarmored, in order to give the airplane its long range. A two or three second burst of fire from the attacking Wildcat was sufficient to catch the Betty on fire (its nickname among Japanese aircrews was "Flying

Cigar Lighter") or knock out an engine. Even if the bomber didn't go down immediately, over half of those damaged over Guadalcanal never completed the return flight to Rabaul.

The Wildcats were only to engage the A6M2 escort if the fighter came in range during their dive. The A6M2 was vastly superior with regard to maneuverability in a turning dogfight. By staying in the vertical plane, the Wildcats could obviate the Zero's advantage. If a Wildcat pilot did get into combat with a Zero, he was more likely to score a victory if he could keep his sights on the enemy fighter for a few seconds, than when the situation was reversed. The Zero's light construction that gave it its range and maneuverability meant it could be shot down with a burst of fire from the six heavy machine guns of the Wildcat. Conversely, even though the Zero was armed with two 20mm cannon, the Wildcat was a product of "The Grumman Ironworks" and was difficult to shoot down. When Saburo Sakai met Wildcats for the first time during the August 7, 1942, air battle at the time of the American invasion, he was amazed that Pug Southerland's F4F-4 refused to go down when it was more heavily-hit by his fire than any other opponent he had faced.

The Marines also had the "home field advantage." If a Marine pilot had to bail out of his fighter, he had an excellent chance of being picked



Marine Aces from left to right: Major Smith, Captain Frazier, Captain Dobbin and Major Bob Galer.



Foto: USN via Thomas Cleaver

Most of the Wildcats only lasted a few weeks of operations at Guadalcanal before ending up like this F4F-4. Those deemed too badly damaged to be repaired became the source of parts for others.

up by Solomon Islanders and returned to Henderson Field, or finding a coast watcher team that could aid his return. This could take some time; when Marion Carl was shot down in combat on 9 September, it took a week for him to make his way back to Henderson overland through the Guadalcanal jungle while evading the enemy soldiers - he returned to find his squadron mates had already divided up his personal effects! The Japanese on the other hand had no nearby presence that could aid shot-down aircrew. The nearest base was the seaplane base in the Shortland Islands, over 100 miles distant. Few of the pilots had the skill to return over 600 miles of open water to Rabaul while wounded, as Sakai had done on August 7. The result was that nearly every Marine and Navy pilot was shot down at least once during the three months of battle, with the majority of those who survived to bail out returning to combat. When a Japanese aircrew was lost, there was no second chance. The manpower drain on the Imperial Japanese Naval Air Force (IJNAF) had a great deal to do with the Japanese failure to retake Guadalcanal.

There were no "aces' planes" among the Wildcats of the Cactus Air Force ("Cactus" being the radio code name for Guadalcanal). All the Wildcats were part of a pool; when a replacement squadron arrived, the



Foto: USN via Thomas Cleaver

Captain Joe Foss (standing left) was top-scoring Marine at Guadalcanal with 26 victories and the first American fighter pilot in World War II to equal Eddie Rickenbacker's World War I score.

airplanes they flew in went to the pool. Commenting once to aviation historian Barrett Tillman about the many questions he had gotten from modelers about what "his" Wildcat looked like, Marine ace of aces Joe Foss said, "Which one of the 36 Wildcats that are in my logbook from then is the one that was mine?" Marion Carl explained that "When the order came to man planes, you took off in the first one you got in that started up."

Though it was outperformed by most opponents it encountered, the F4F-4 was a tough opponent when flown by a pilot using tactics suited to its capabilities. For its service in "saving Guadalcanal," it is one of the true "immortals" among fighters of the Second World War.

ATTENTION



UPOZORNĚNÍ



ACHTUNG



ATTENTION



注意



Carefully read instruction sheet before assembling. When you use glue or paint, do not use near open flame and use in well ventilated room. Keep out of reach of small children. Children must not be allowed to suck any part, or pull vinyl bag over the head.



Před započetím stavby si pečlivě prostudujte stavební návod. Při používání barev a lepidel pracujte v dobře větrané místnosti. Lepidla ani barvy nepoužívejte v blízkosti otevřeného ohně. Model není určen malým dětem, mohlo by dojít k požití drobných dílů.

INSTRUCTION SIGNS

\* INSTR. SYMBOLY

\* INSTRUKTION SINNBILDEN

\* SYMBOLES

\* 記号の説明

OPTIONAL  
VOLBABEND  
OHNOUTSAND  
BROUSITOPEN HOLE  
VYVRTAT OTVORSYMETRICAL ASSEMBLY  
SYMETRICKÁ MONTÁŽREMOVE  
ODŘÍZNOUTREVERSE SIDE  
OTOČITAPPLY EDUARD MASK  
AND PAINT  
POUŽÍT EDUARD MASK  
NABARVIT

PARTS



DÍLY



TEILE

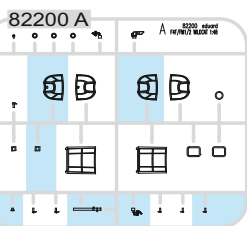


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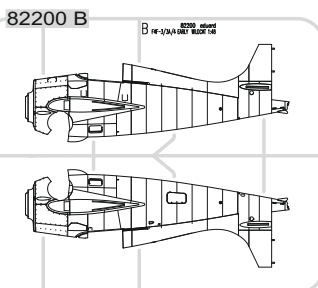


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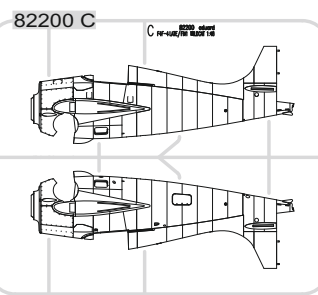
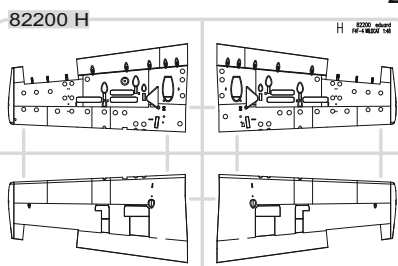
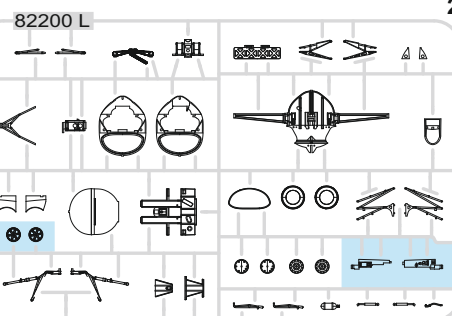
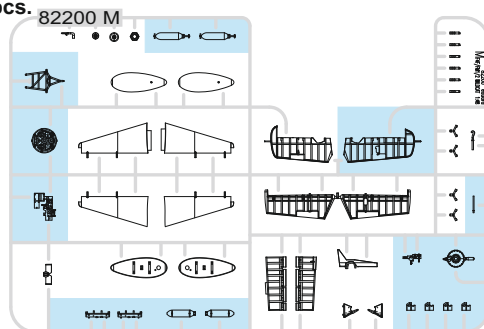
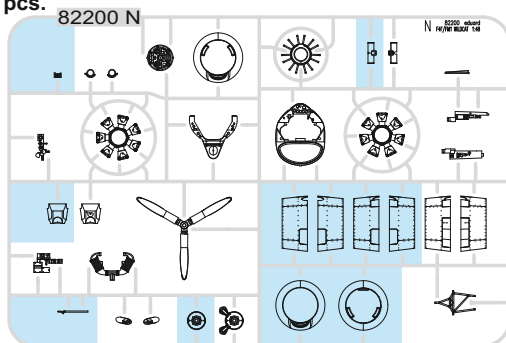
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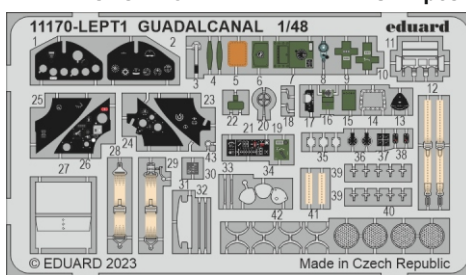
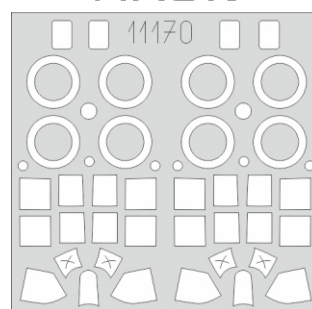
B&gt;



C&gt;

H>  
2 pcs.L>  
2 pcs.M>  
2 pcs.N>  
2 pcs.

## PE - PHOTO ETCHED DETAIL PARTS 2 pcs.

eduard  
MASK

-Parts not for use. -Teile werden nicht verwendet. -Pièces à ne pas utiliser. -Tyto díly nepoužívejte při stavbě. - 使用しない部品

COLOURS



BARVY



FARBEN



PEINTURE

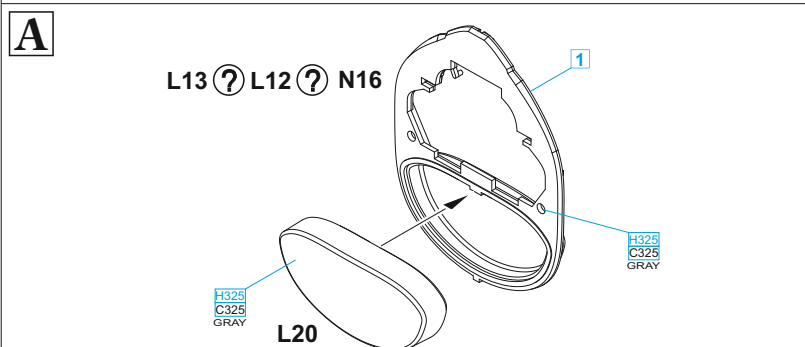
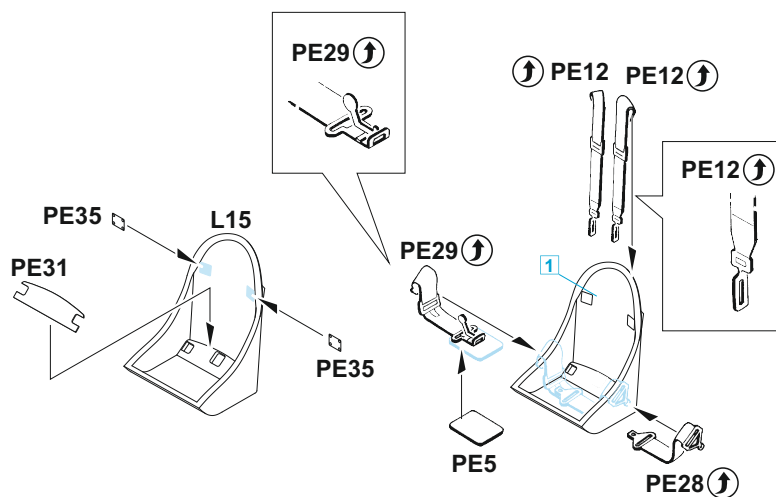
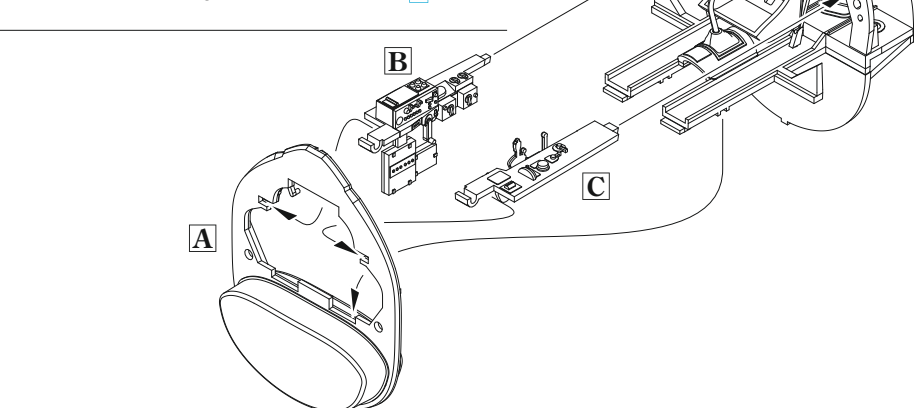
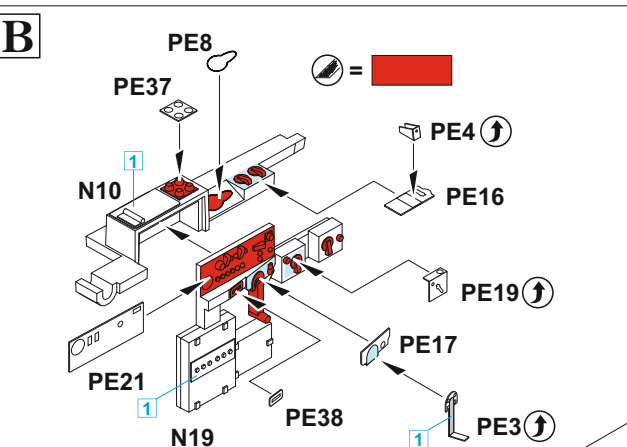
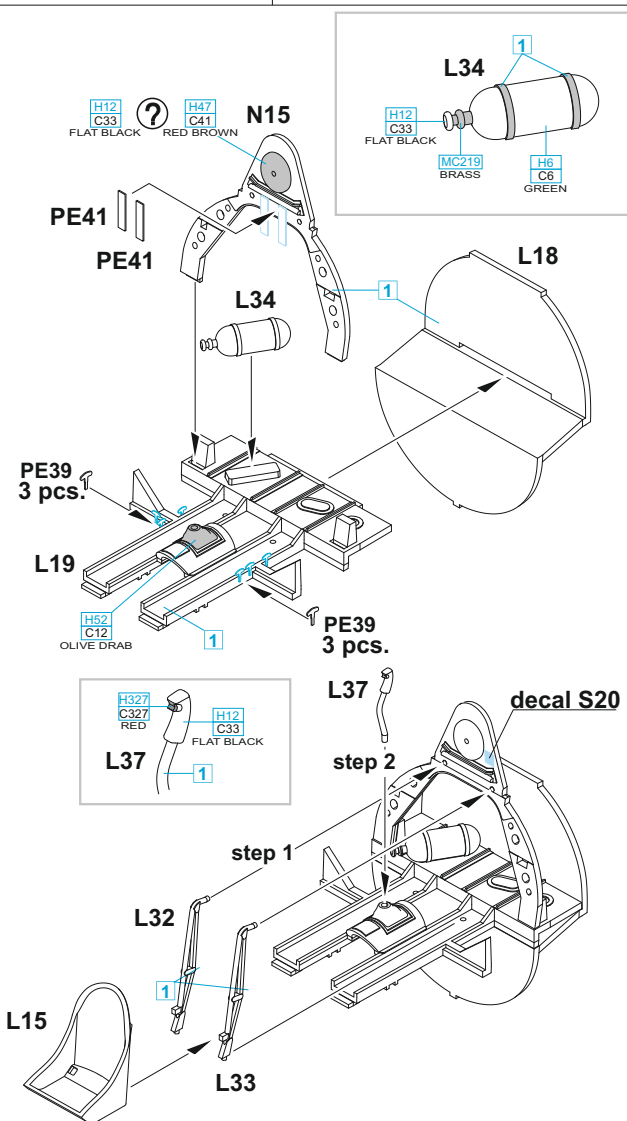


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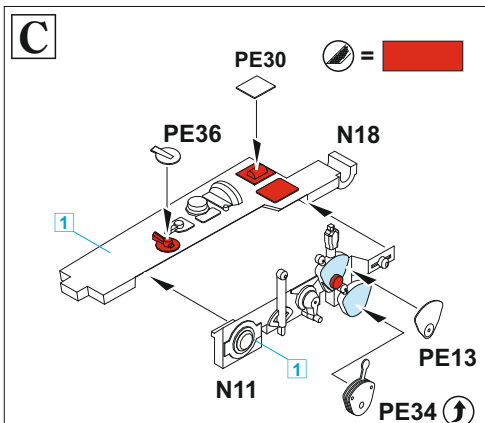
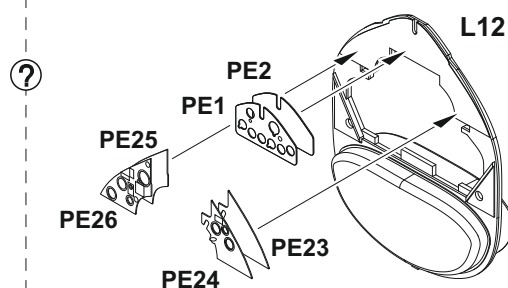
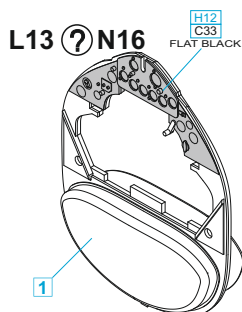
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AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H1	C1	WHITE
H2	C2	BLACK
H6	C6	GREEN
H8	C8	SILVER
H12	C33	FLAT BLACK
H47	C41	RED BROWN
H52	C12	OLIVE DRAB
H58	C351	INTERIOR GREEN
H77	C137	TIRE BLACK
H85	C45	SAIL COLOR
H90	C47	CLEAR RED
H93	C50	CLEAR BLUE
H94	C138	CLEAR GREEN

GSI Creos (GUNZE)		
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H306	C306	MEDIUM GRAY
H316	C316	WHITE
H325	C325	GRAY
H327	C327	RED
H329	C329	YELLOW
	C367	BLUE GRAY
Mr.METAL COLOR		
MC214		DARK IRON
MC218		ALUMINIUM
MC219		BRASS
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC		
SM201		SUPER FINE SILVER

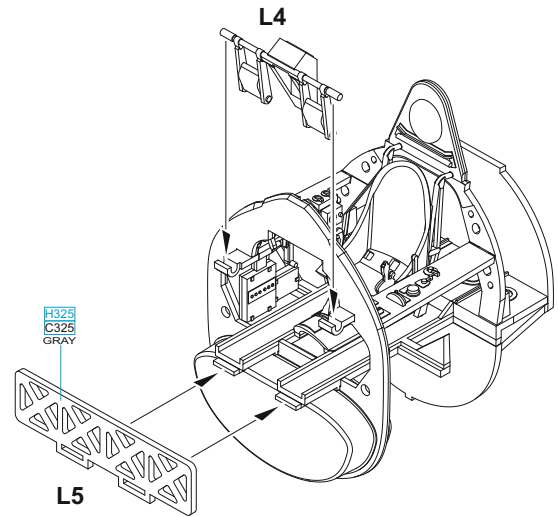
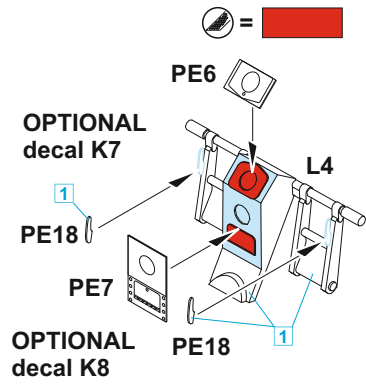
1 = 90% + 10%  
 H58 C351 INT.GREEN H12 C33 FLAT BLACK



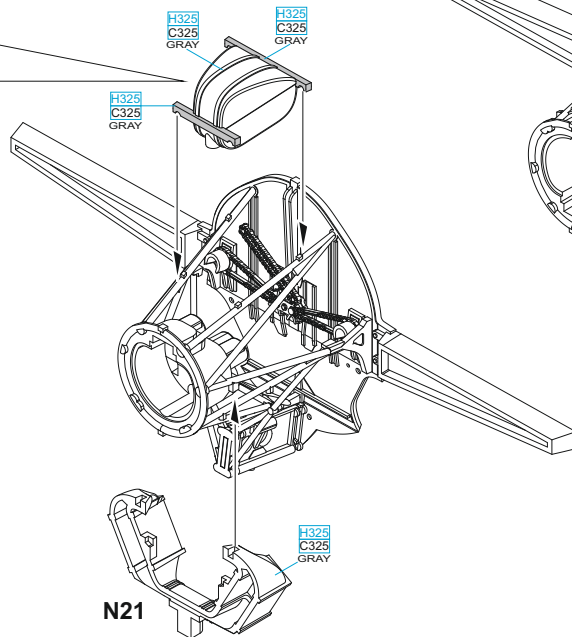
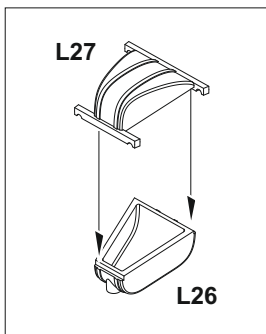
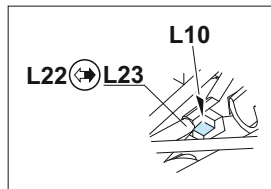
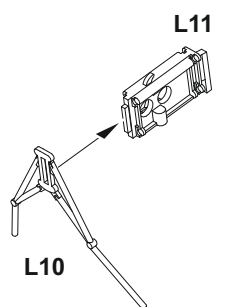
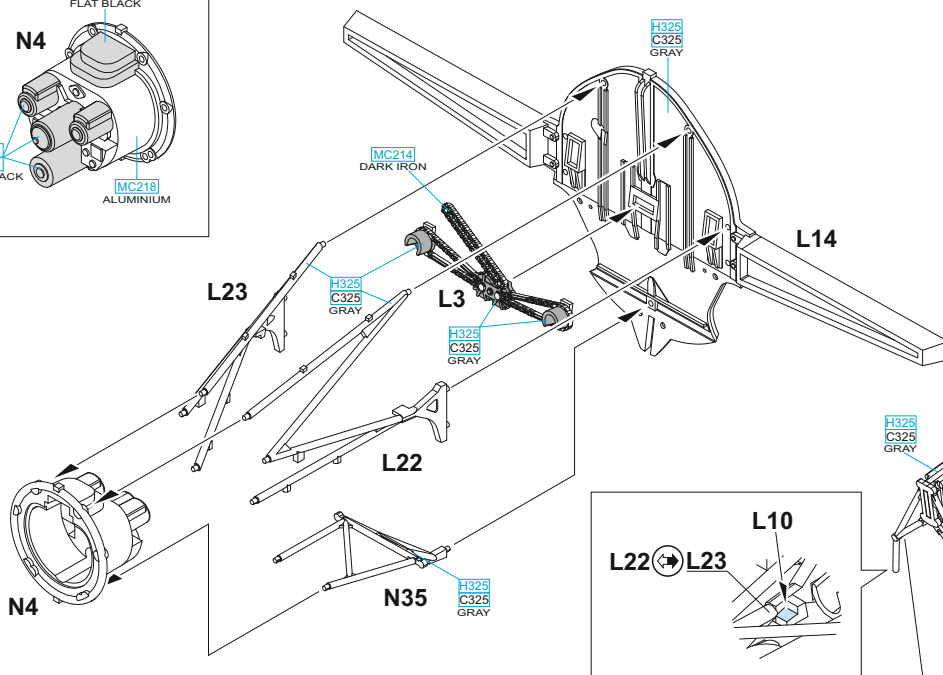
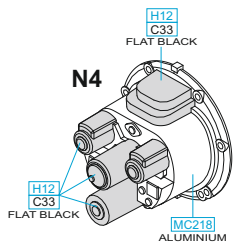
OPTIONAL:  
 decals K11, K12, K13



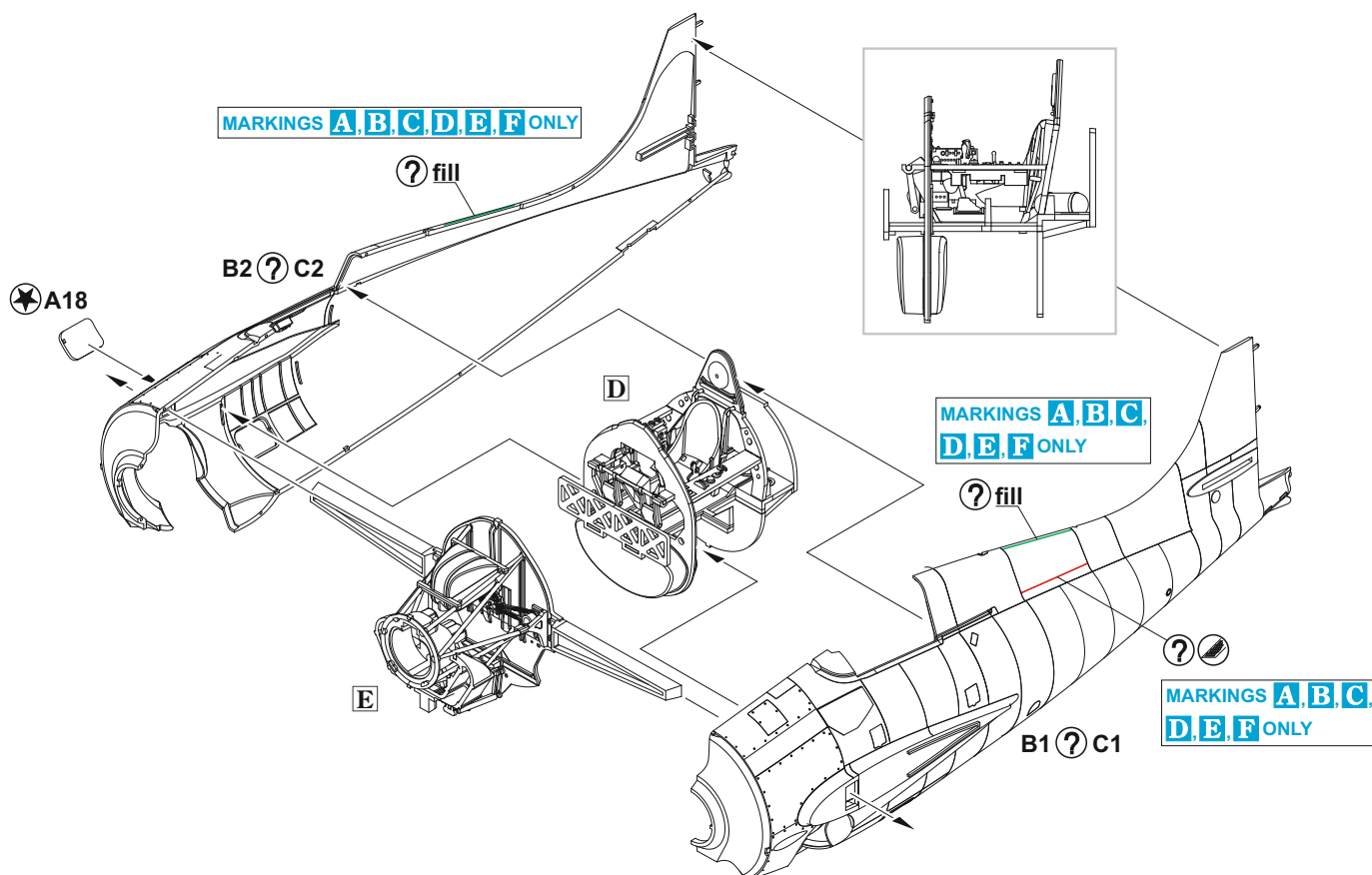
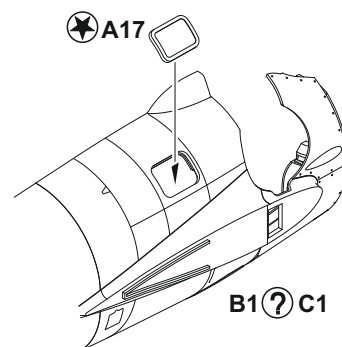
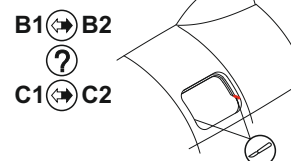
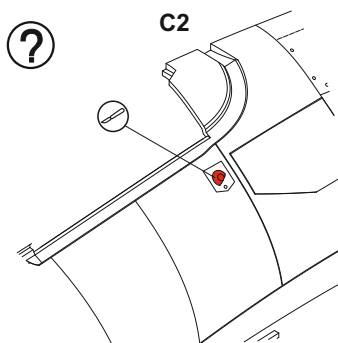
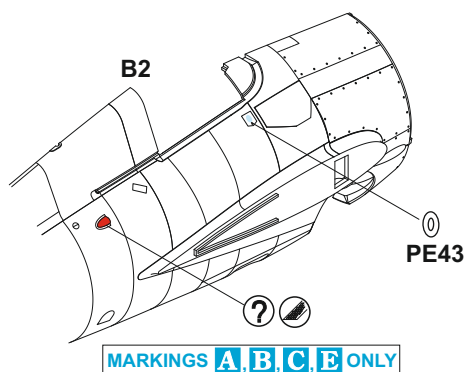
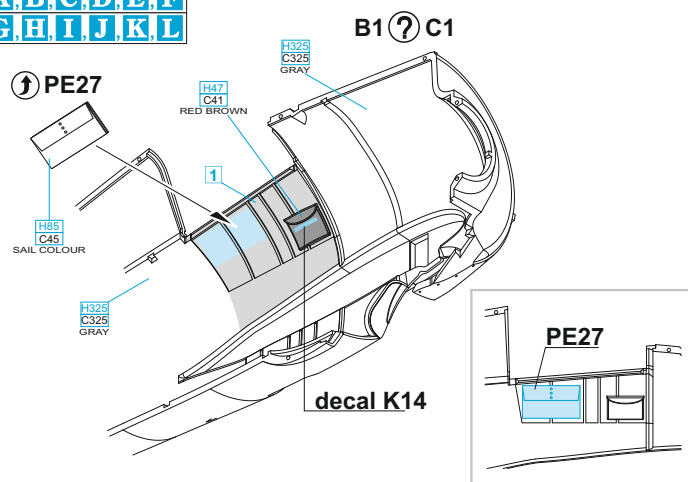
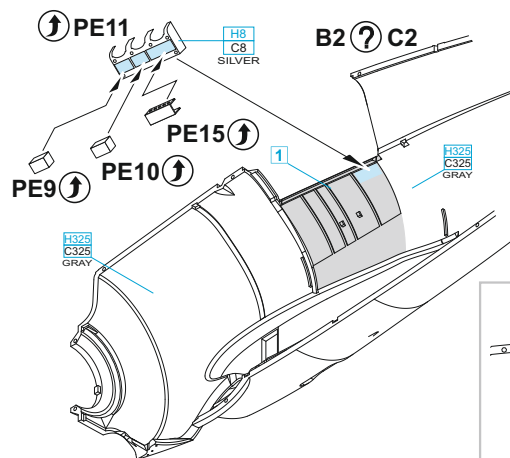
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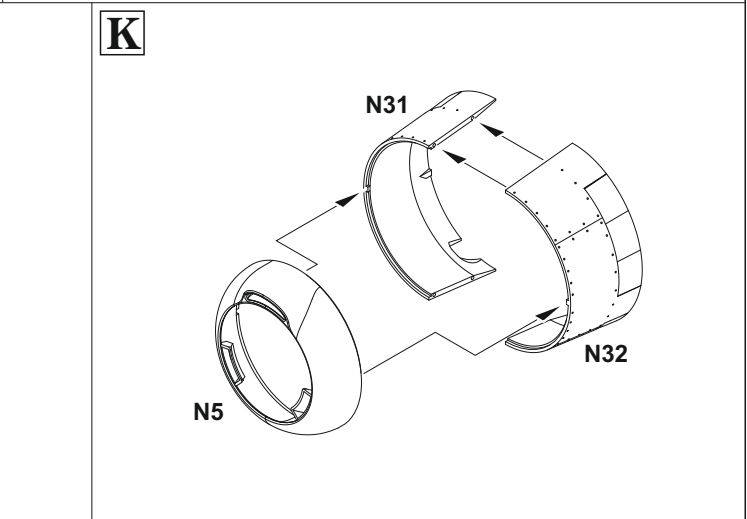
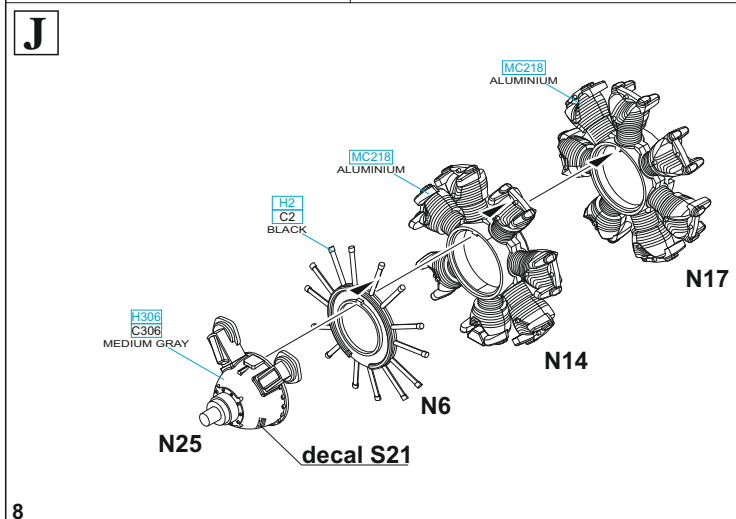
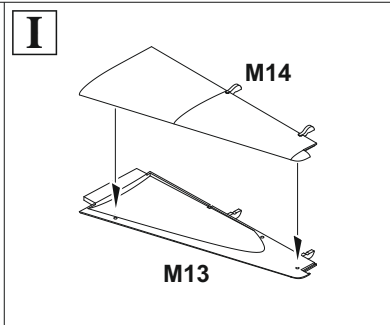
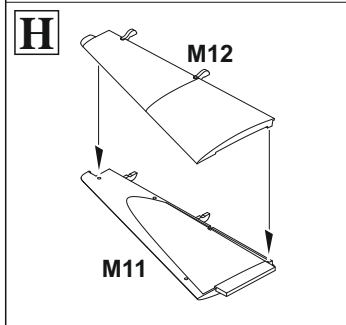
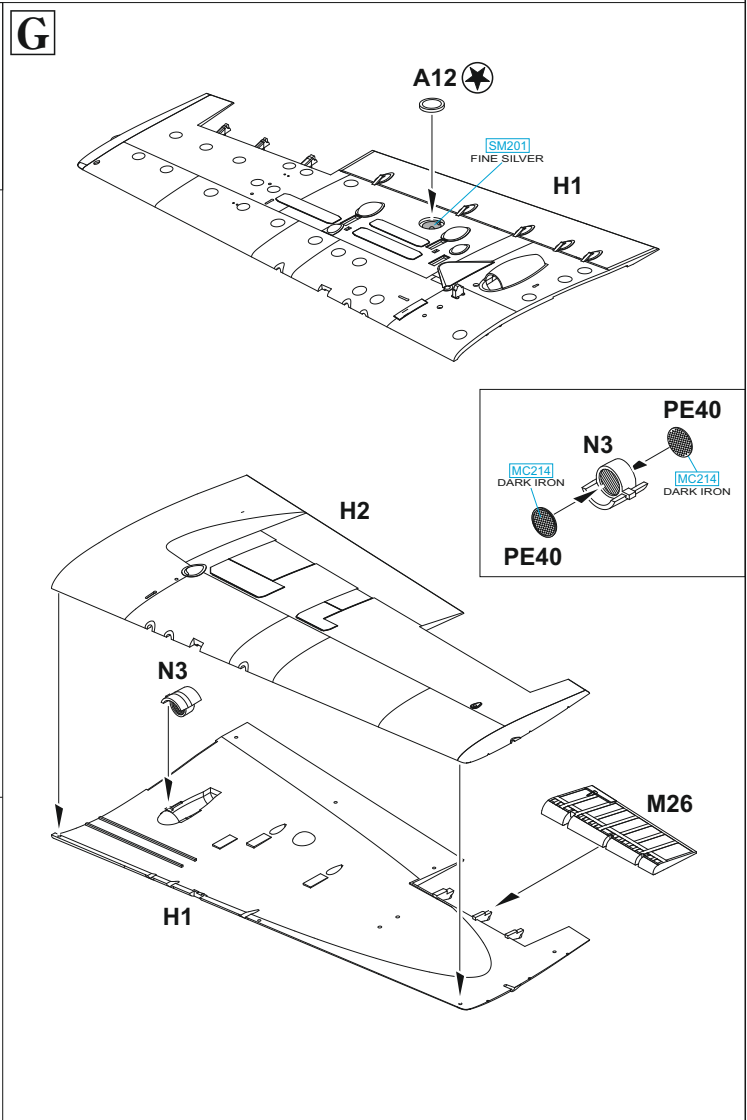
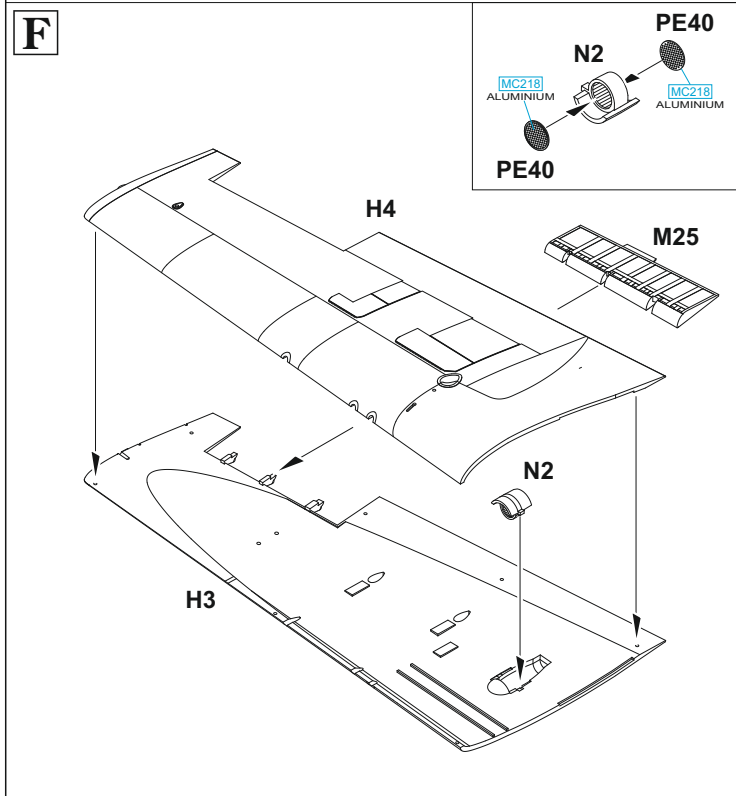
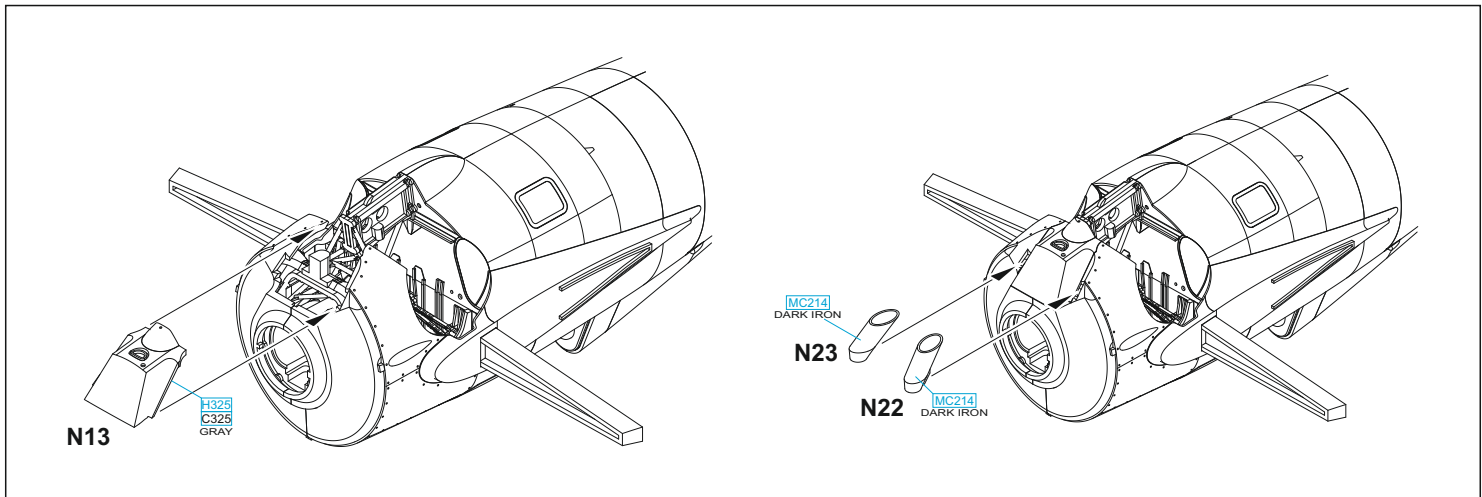


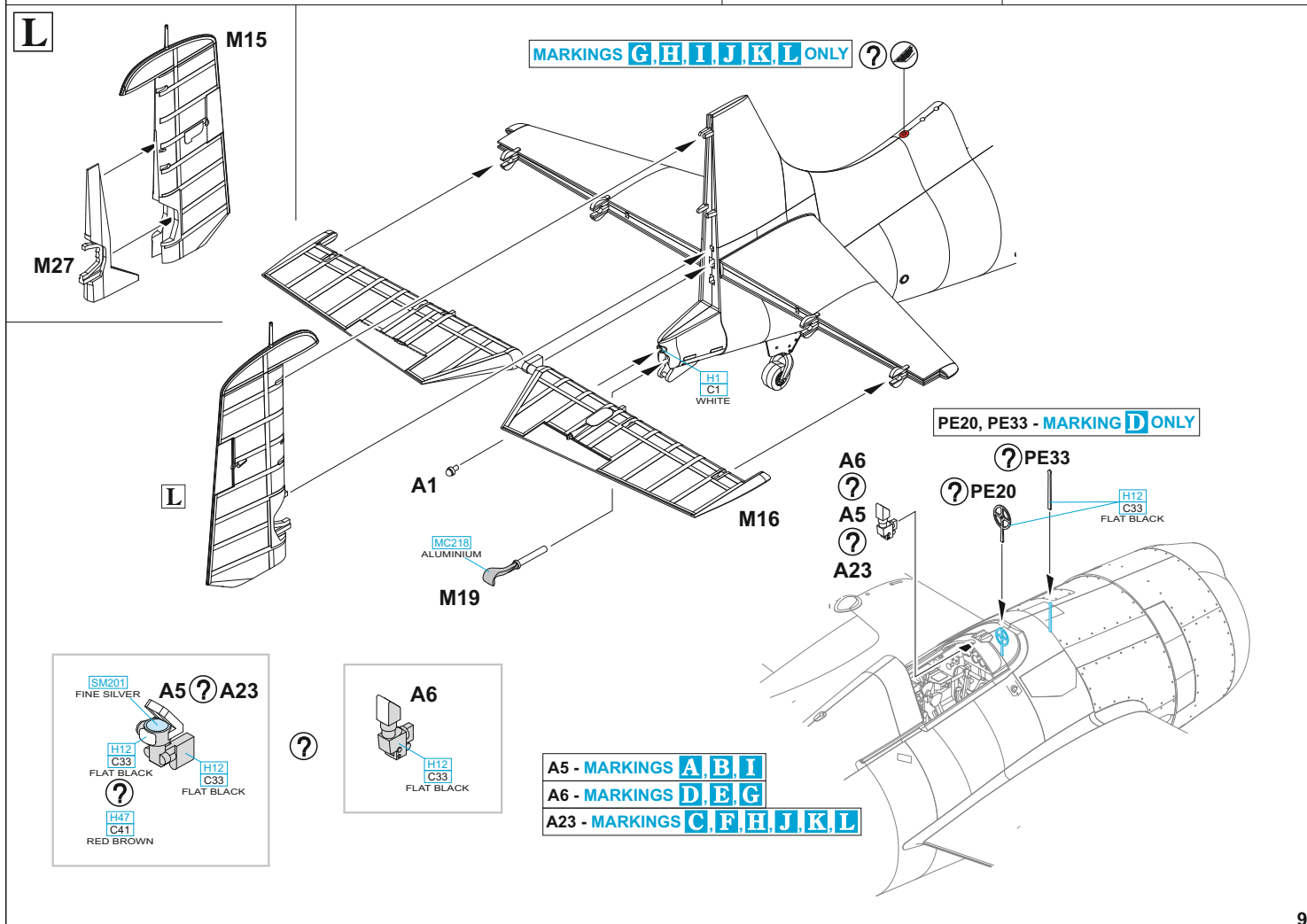
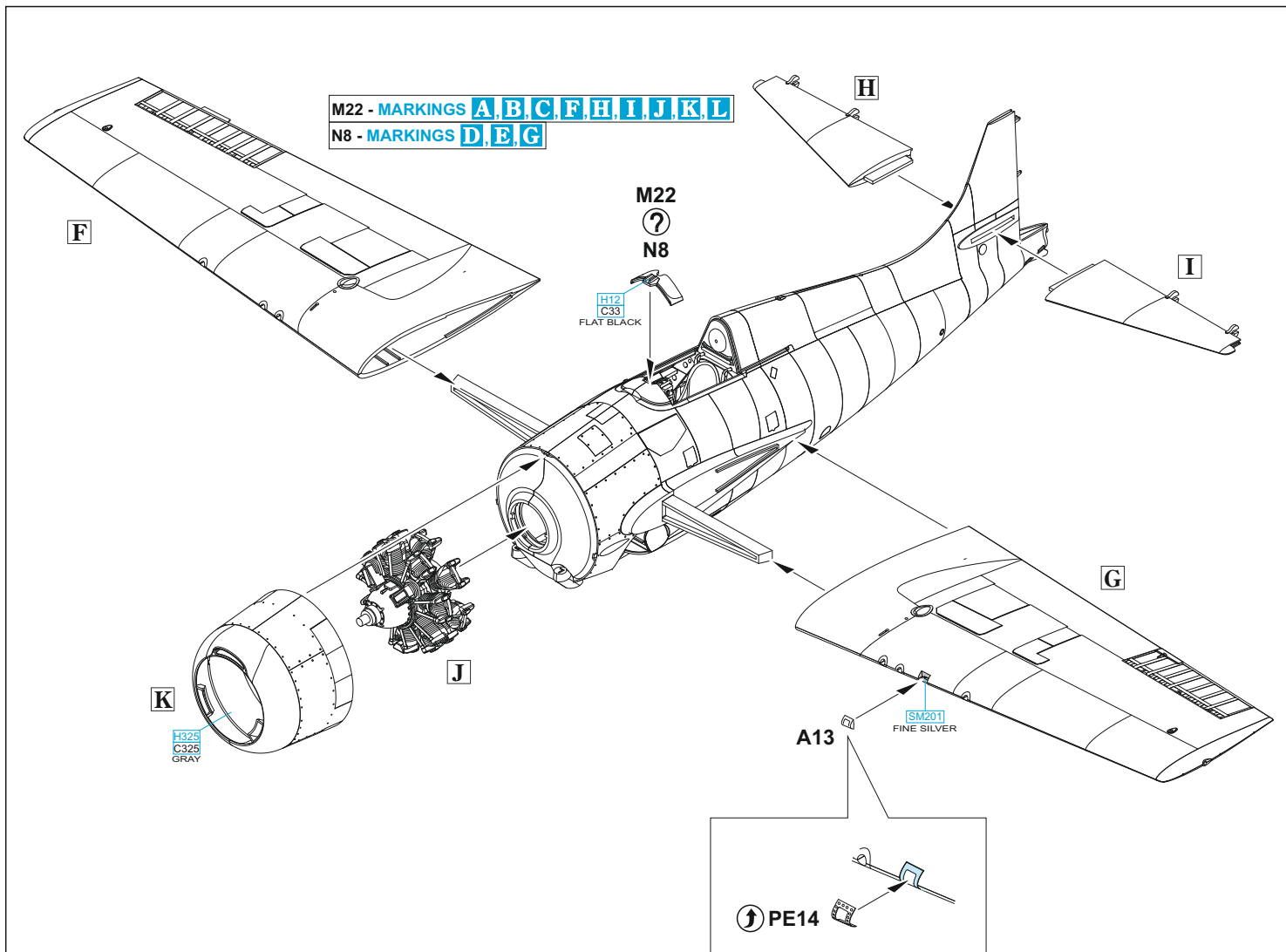
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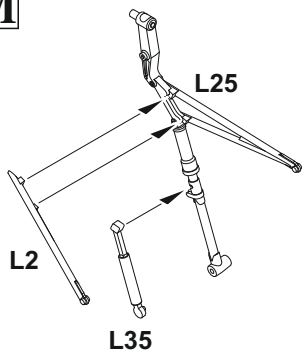
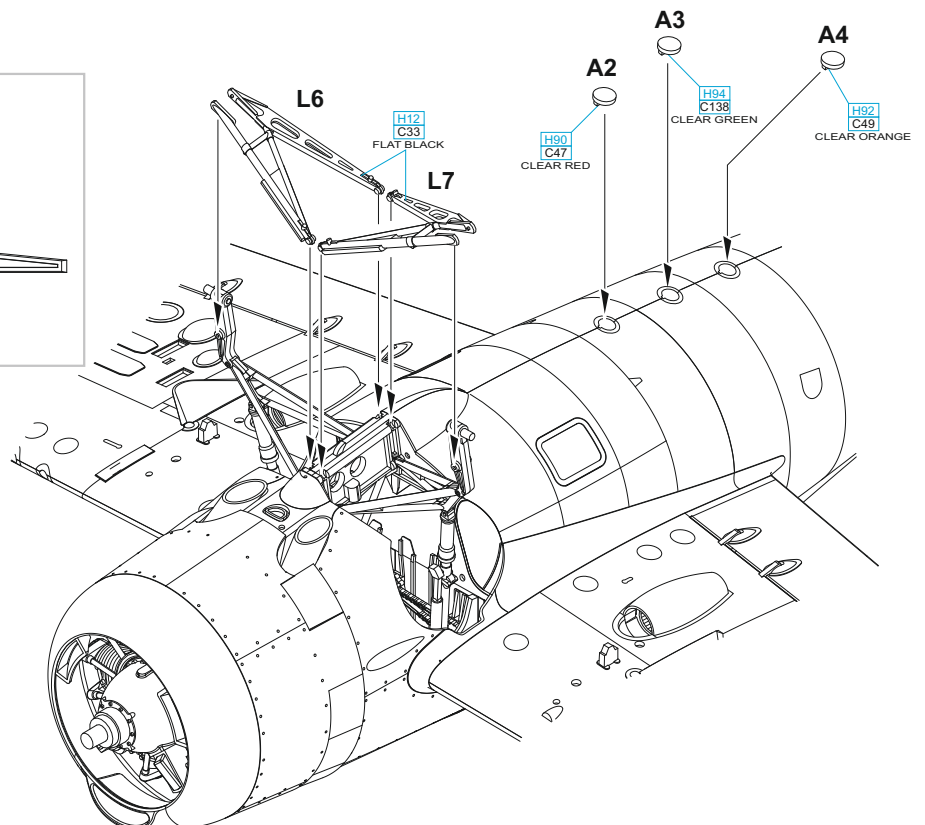
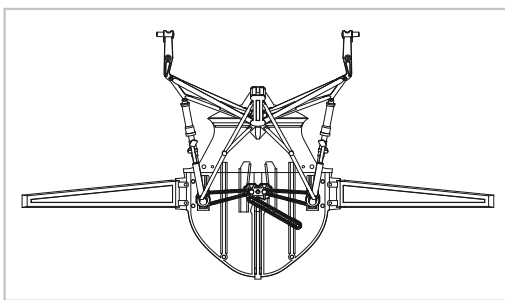
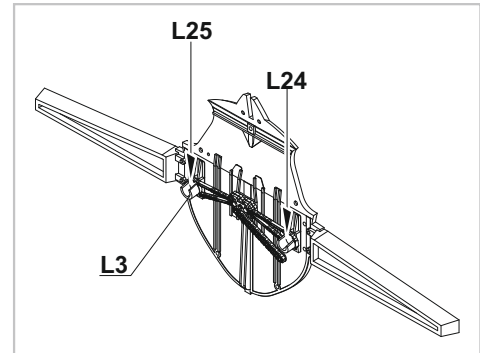
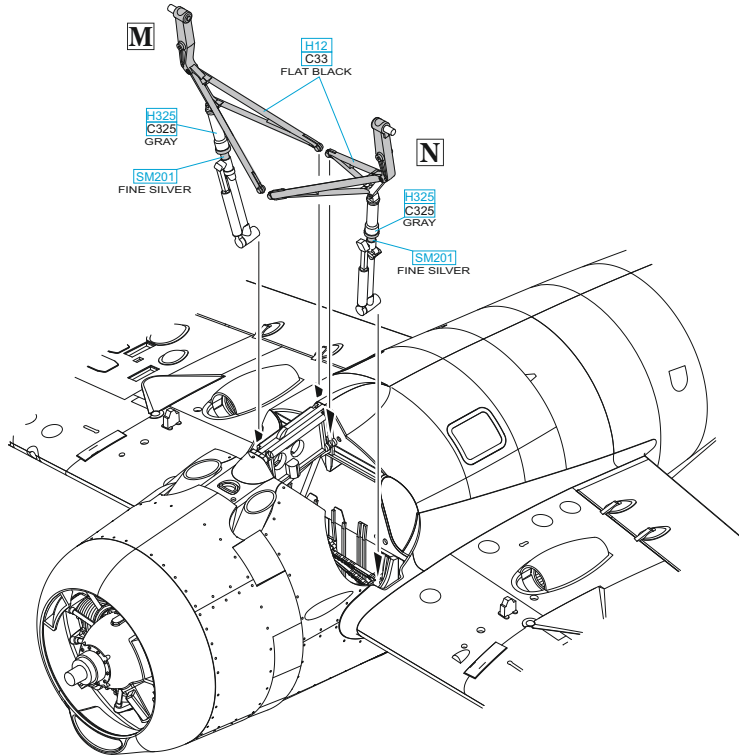
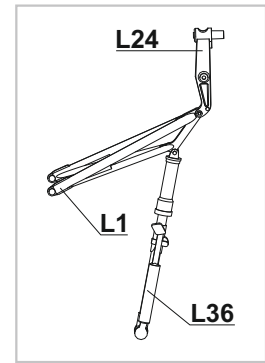
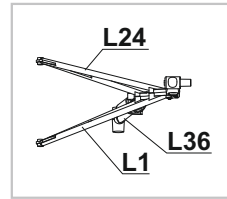
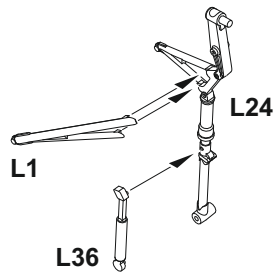


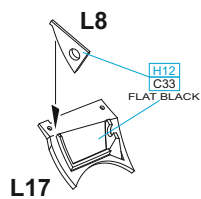
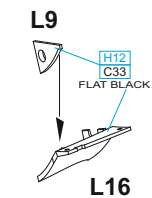
B1, B2 - MARKINGS **A, B, C, D, E, F**  
 C1, C2 - MARKINGS **G, H, I, J, K, L**







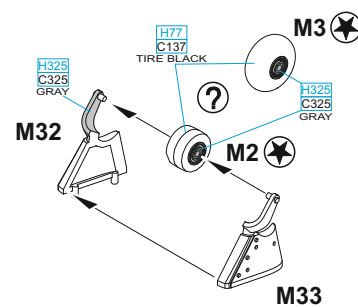
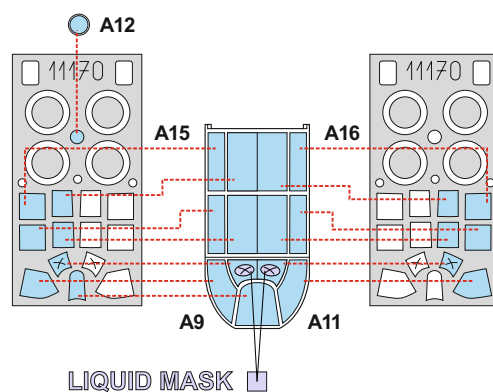
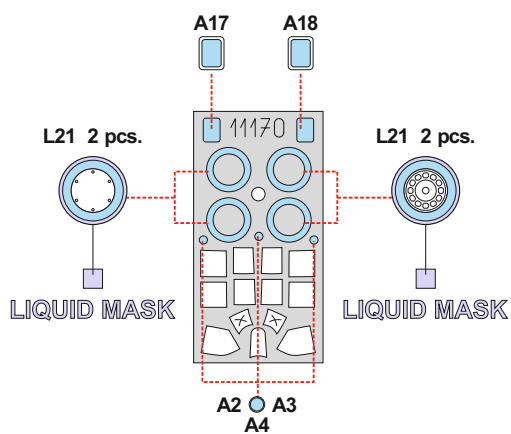
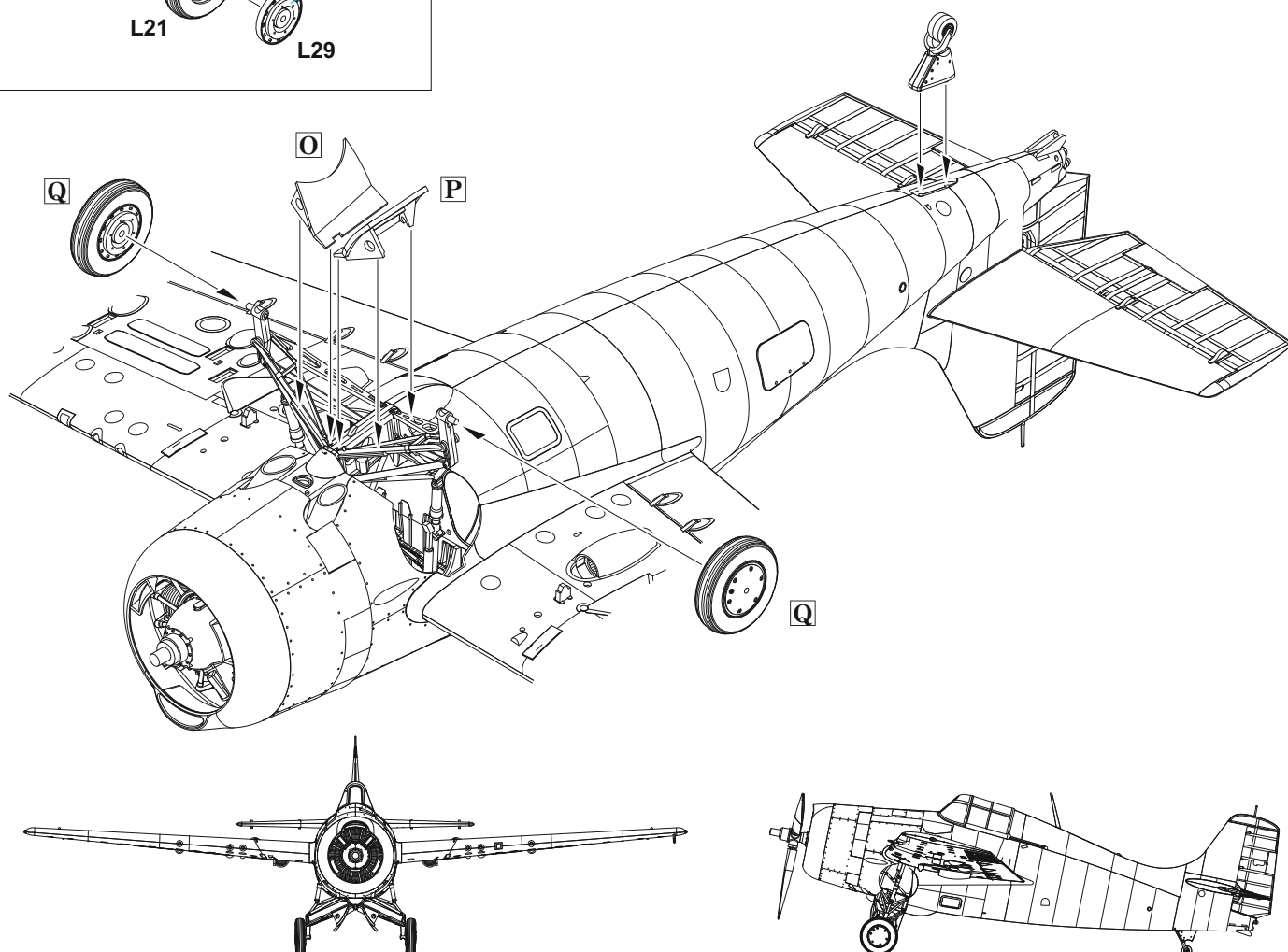
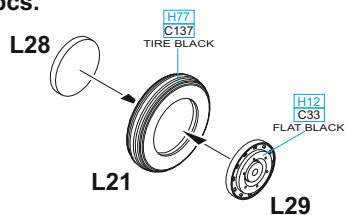
**M****N**

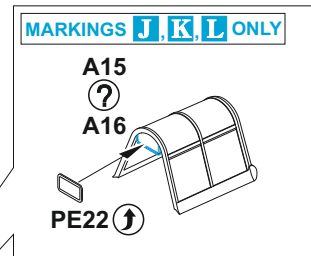
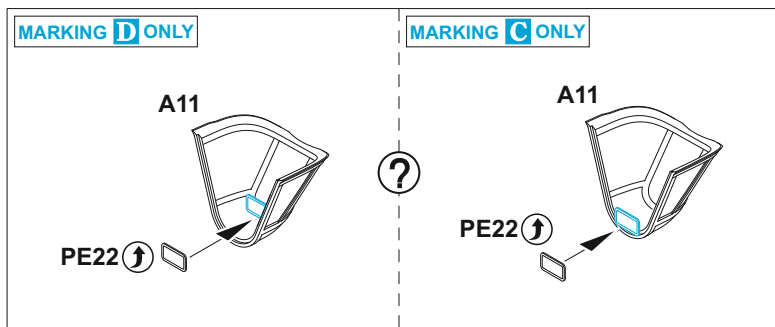
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decal S22

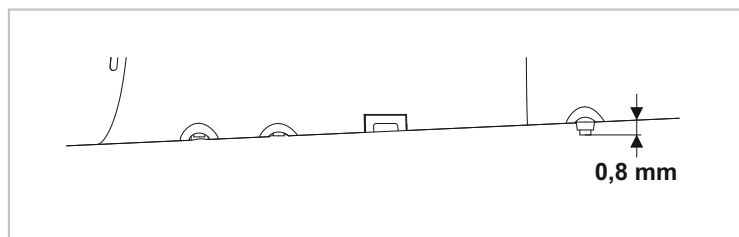
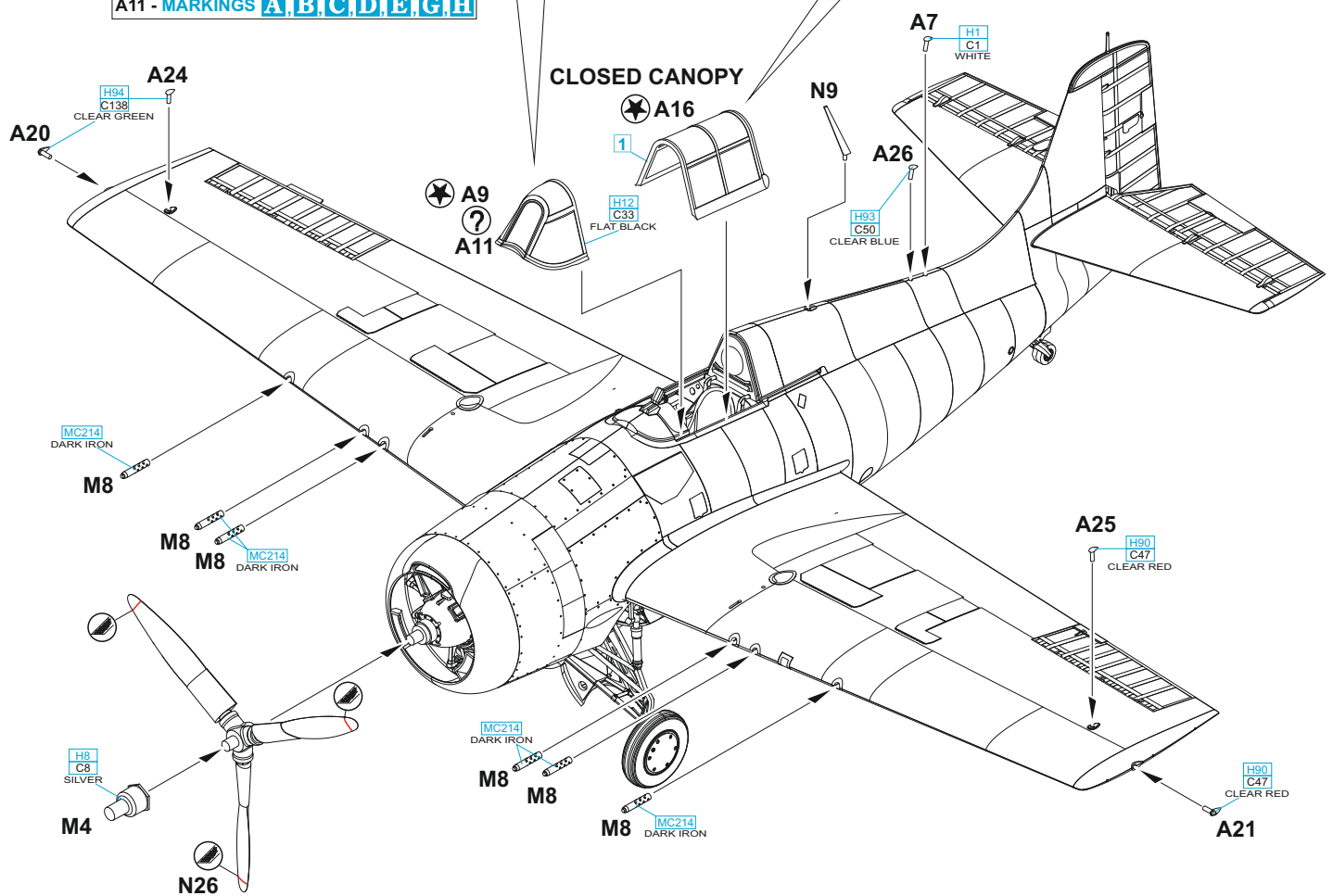
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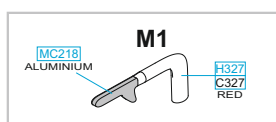
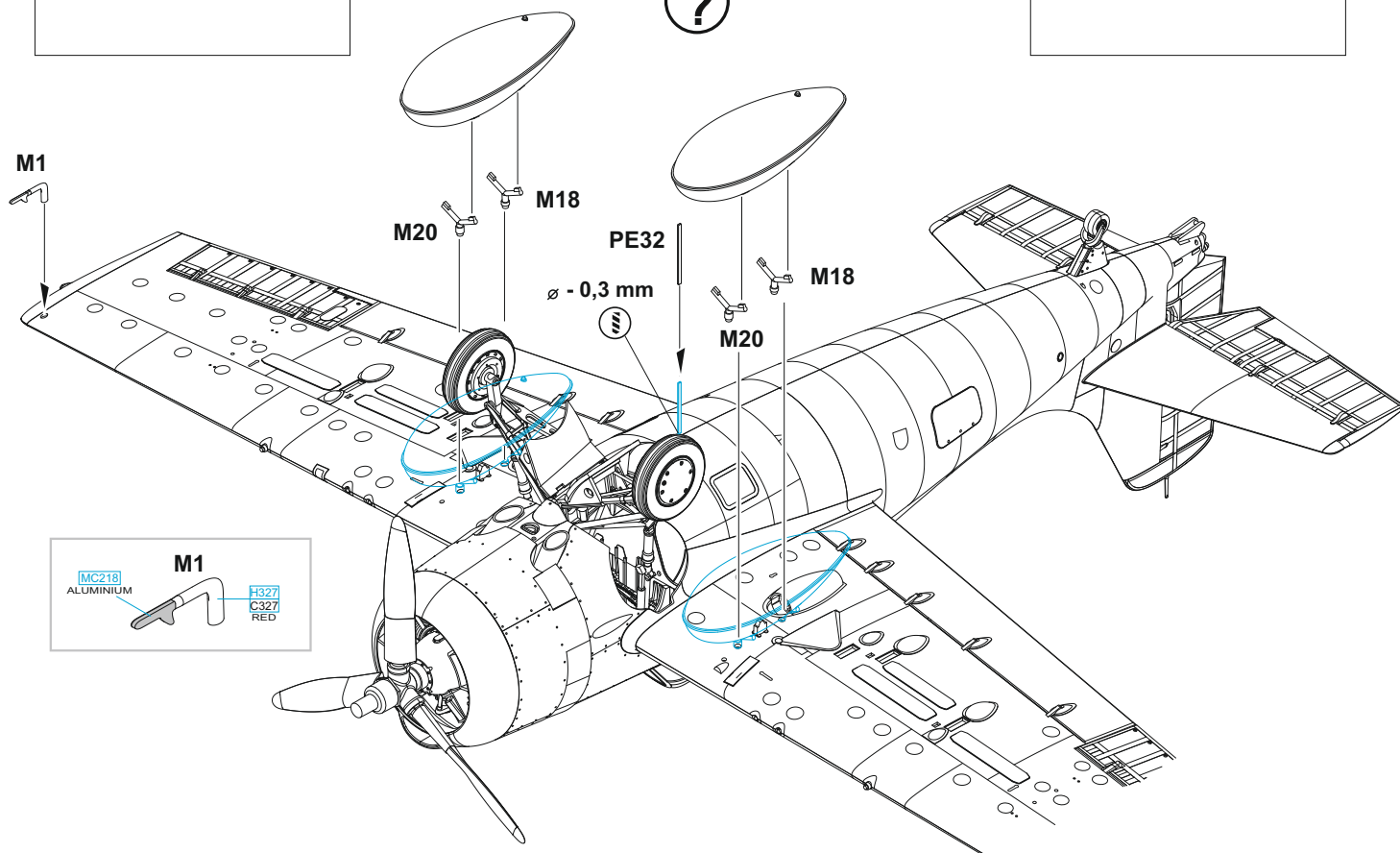
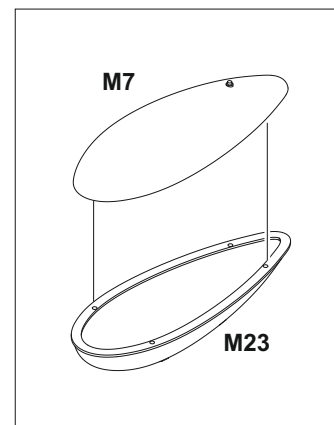
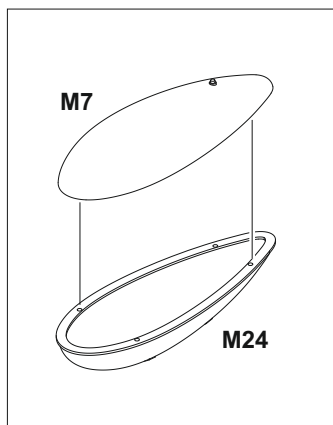
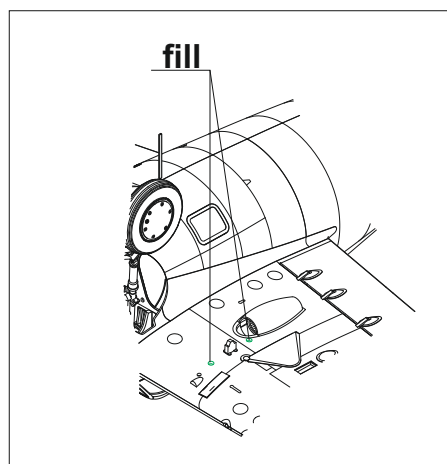
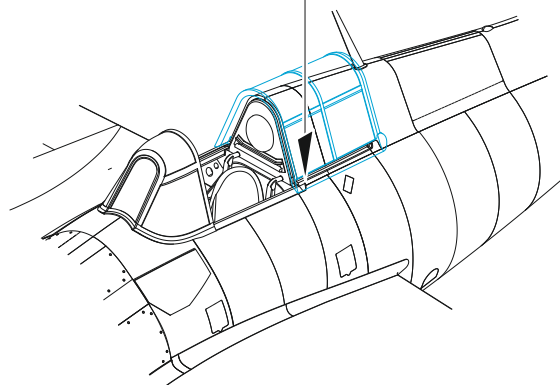
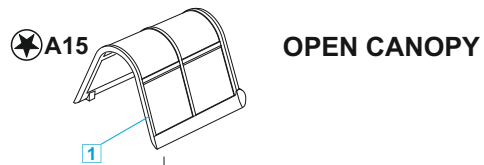
M3 - MARKINGS **C E F G H I J K L**

**Q** 2 pcs.



**A9 - MARKINGS F, I, J, K, L**  
**A11 - MARKINGS A, B, C, D, E, G, H**





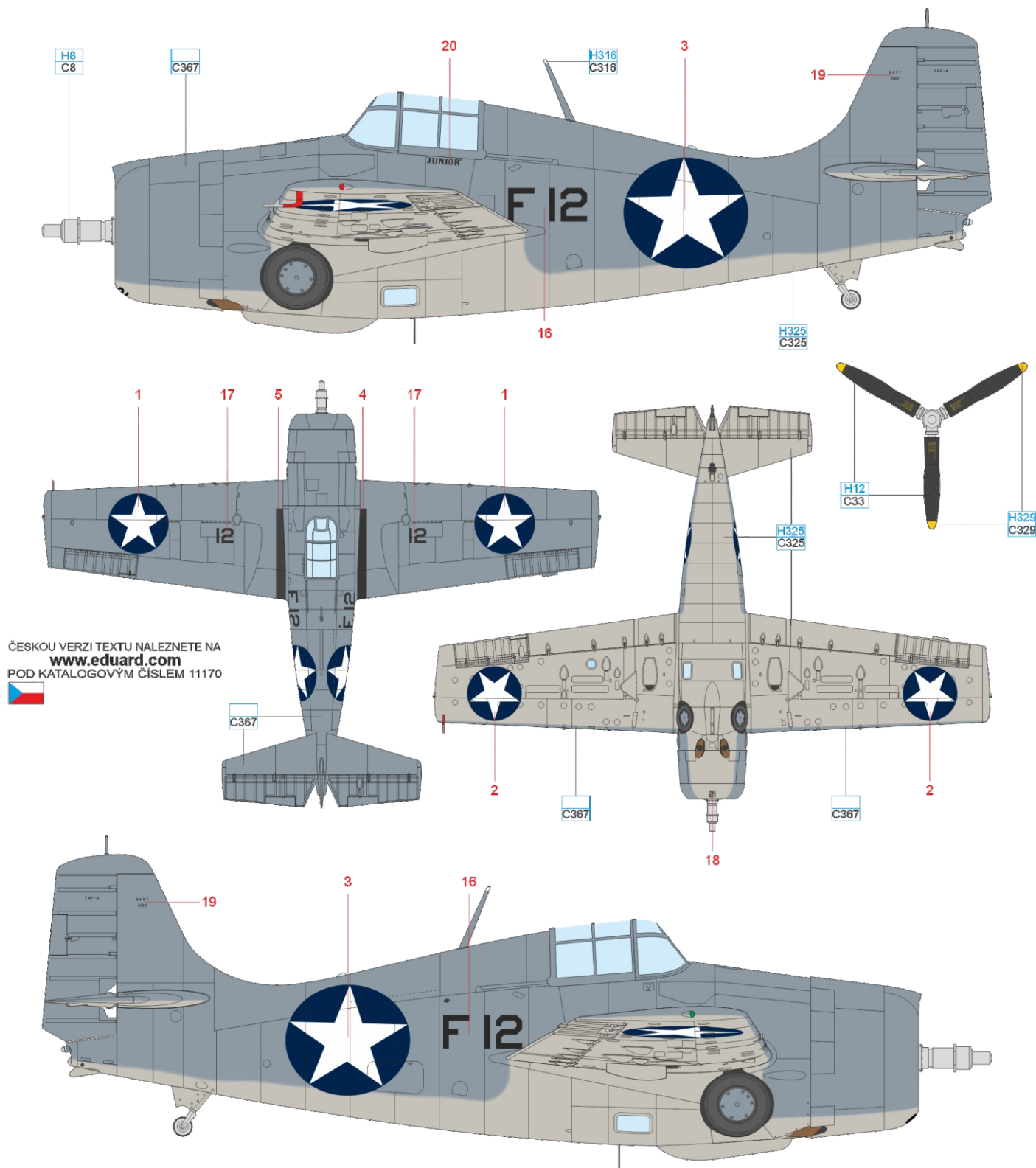
Unusual surname and blond hair were equally responsible for the nickname "Swede" for Stanley Winifield Vejtasa, a man with strong Czech roots as a grandson of immigrants from then part of the Austria-Hungary Empire. He made himself famous when he managed to shoot down three Zeros while leading a formation of eight SBD-3s tasked with the air cover of the US ships during the Battle of the Coral Sea. This achievement gave him opportunity to join VF-10 fighting squadron as its Operations Officer. There he scored seven more kills during the Guadalcanal campaign on board of the USS Enterprise (CV-6). After the war he enjoyed a great career, making him the Captain of USS Constellation (CV-64) and CO of the Miramar base. He retired in 1970 and died on January 23, 2012, at the age of 98. The Wildcat No. 79 took over the starboard side panel with eight kill marks from the No. 19 (BuNo. 03417) Vejtasa used before. Ninth kill mark was added on November 13, when he shot down one huge Kawanishi Type 97 Mavis flying boat. Some of the Wildcats sported the kill marks on both sides, but only starboard of this Wildcat is known. This hangs question mark on their port side presence. Also, the white vertical rudder strip is not sure for the period of the early 1943.



We would like to thank to František Šrédľ for his invaluable help with preparation of this kit.

## B BuNo. 5192, Ens. Mortimer Kleinmann jr., VF-5, USS Saratoga (CV-3), August 1942

This is a reconstruction of the aircraft, assigned to and usually flown by Ens. Mortimer "Junior" Kleinmann. But on August 7, 1942, during the rush to take off against Japanese bombers as soon as possible, Lt. James Julien "Pug" Southerland jumped the plane and took it off against the enemy. He managed to shoot down two bombers but during the consecutive dogfight with Zero he learned his guns would not fire, probably due to the damage from fire by the tail gunner of the bomber. To make the things even worse, two more Zeros joined the fight. Pug was able to outmaneuver them, but the melee was spotted by Saburo Sakai. The Wildcat was hit by numerous shells from machine guns and cannons, but kept flying, until a Zero gave him a burst into the left-wing root setting it afire. "Pug" bailed out over the enemy territory of western part of Guadalcanal. Wounded and weaponless he managed to escape the Japanese soldiers thanks to the help of natives and was evacuated from Henderson Field on August 20, 1942. Later he added three more victories with F6F-5 and died in flying accident on October 12, 1949. Mortimer Kleinmann achieved two kills during the time USS Saratoga (CV-3) was taking part in Guadalcanal campaign.



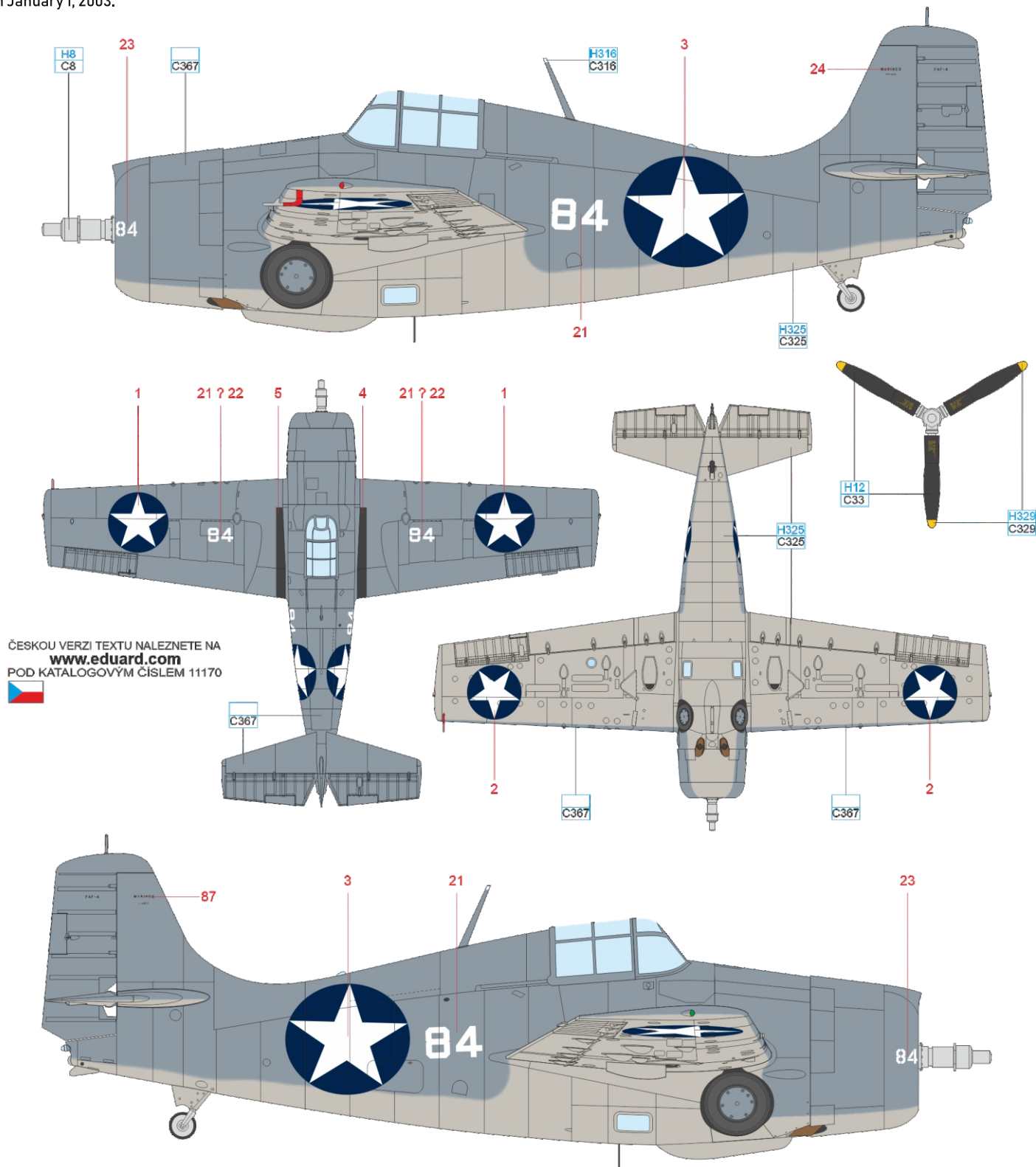
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## Capt. Joseph J. Foss, VMF-121, Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, October–November 1942

This is one of the Wildcats of VMF-121 the highest-scoring ace of the Guadalcanal campaign, Capt. Joseph Jacobs Foss, used during the combat missions. The Bureau Number is unknown, but we know Foss scored with nine different Wildcats. This speaks of itself as the Marine pilots on Guadalcanal did not have the luxury of assigned aircraft. Not even the best ones. The fierce combats, harsh environment and other factors made the Wildcats rather consumable goods, and the pilots simply jumped the closest airworthy aircraft. Joe Foss, former flying instructor, joined VMF-121 on August 11, 1942 and was promoted to Captain on the same day. He arrived at Guadalcanal on October 9 and four days later scored his first victory, shooting down a Zero. His score was rising, as he shot down 16 enemies during October and prior to his farewell to the island his score raised to 23. He had to bail out himself on November 7 after shooting down one Rufe and two float biplanes and made it back to the base in three days. The VMF-121 left Guadalcanal on November 19, but Joe returned to Guadalcanal for his final tour there from January 1 to January 26, 1943. Adding three more kills, he became the highest scoring USMC ace of WWII. After the war, he served in the South Dakota Air National Guard, which he helped to organize. Later he turned to politics and was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives but returned to the duty during Korean war. In 1954, Foss was elected Governor of South Dakota. He passed away on January 1, 2003.



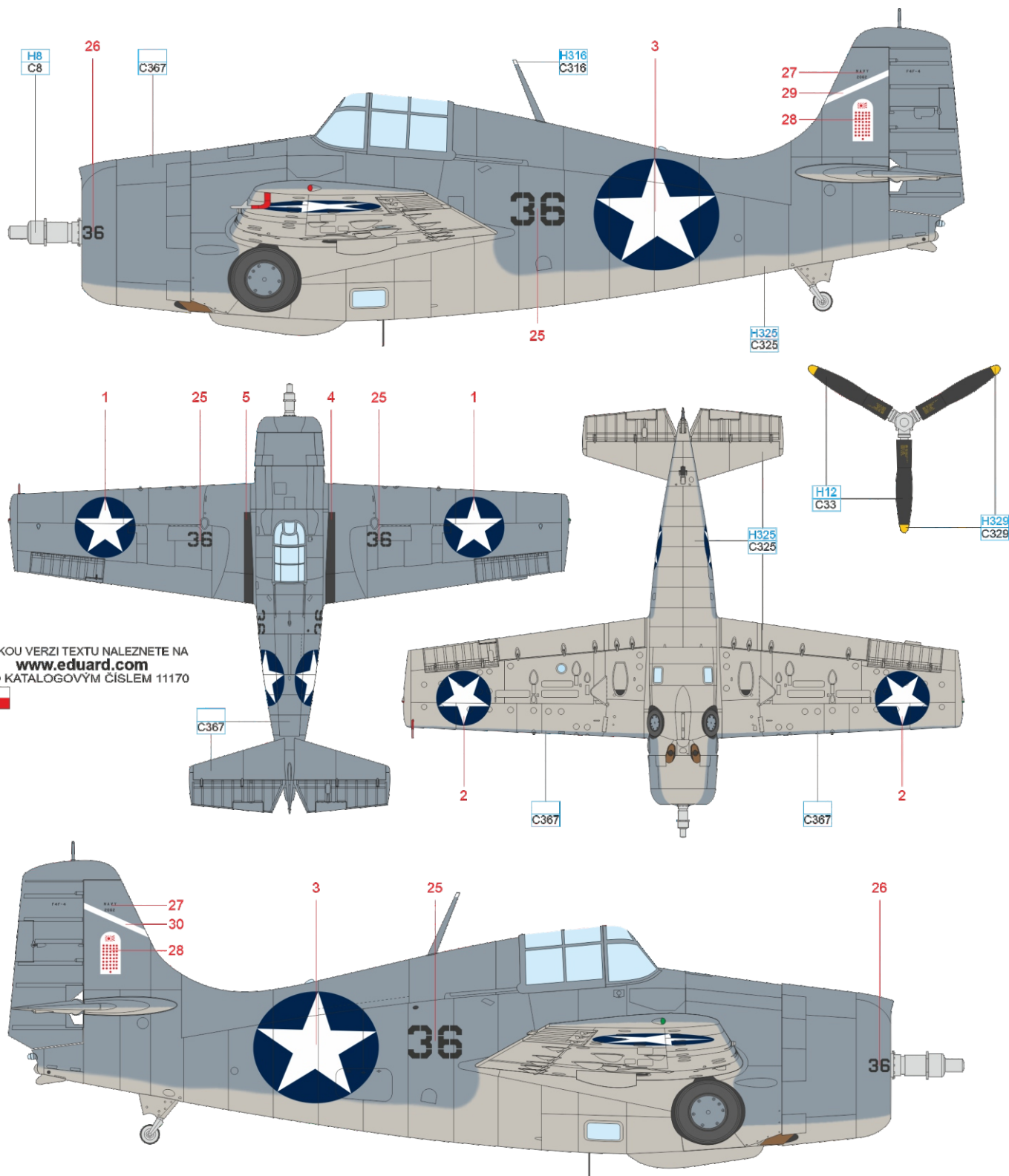
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# D BuNo. 02062, Mach. Donald E. Runyon, VF-6, USS Enterprise (CV-6), September 1942

Donald Eugene Runyon was a petty officer Aviation Machinists Mate 1/c and he was so skilled he had officers for wingmen. He scored six times with Wildcat. This one served him well to get two of his victories at the very start of the Guadalcanal campaign on August 8, when he shot down Zero and Betty. A day before, he also shot down two enemies with aircraft BuNo. 02125. He joined VF-3 in December 1942 and stayed with the unit until April 1944. He did not achieve any aerial victories with the unit, but the things changed when he joined VF-18 based on the USS Bunker Hill (CV-17) in September 1943. There, already flying Hellcats, he added three more kills to finish the war with 11 victories. He was promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) rank in May 1943 and to Lieutenant on July 1, 1944. He was a test pilot at Moffett Field from July 1945 to July 1946 and served with several units until July 1964, when he retired in the rank of Commander. The Wildcat BuNo. 02062 sported the unusual painting of the tombstone with 41 Japanese roundels symbolizing total score of the VF-6 during their fighting of Guadalcanal Campaign. Such a painting sported only nine Wildcats of the unit, the ones which stayed on the deck of the USS Enterprise (CV-6) on her route from the Solomons to Hawaii. Other Wildcats were flown to USS Saratoga (CV-3) or to Guadalcanal.



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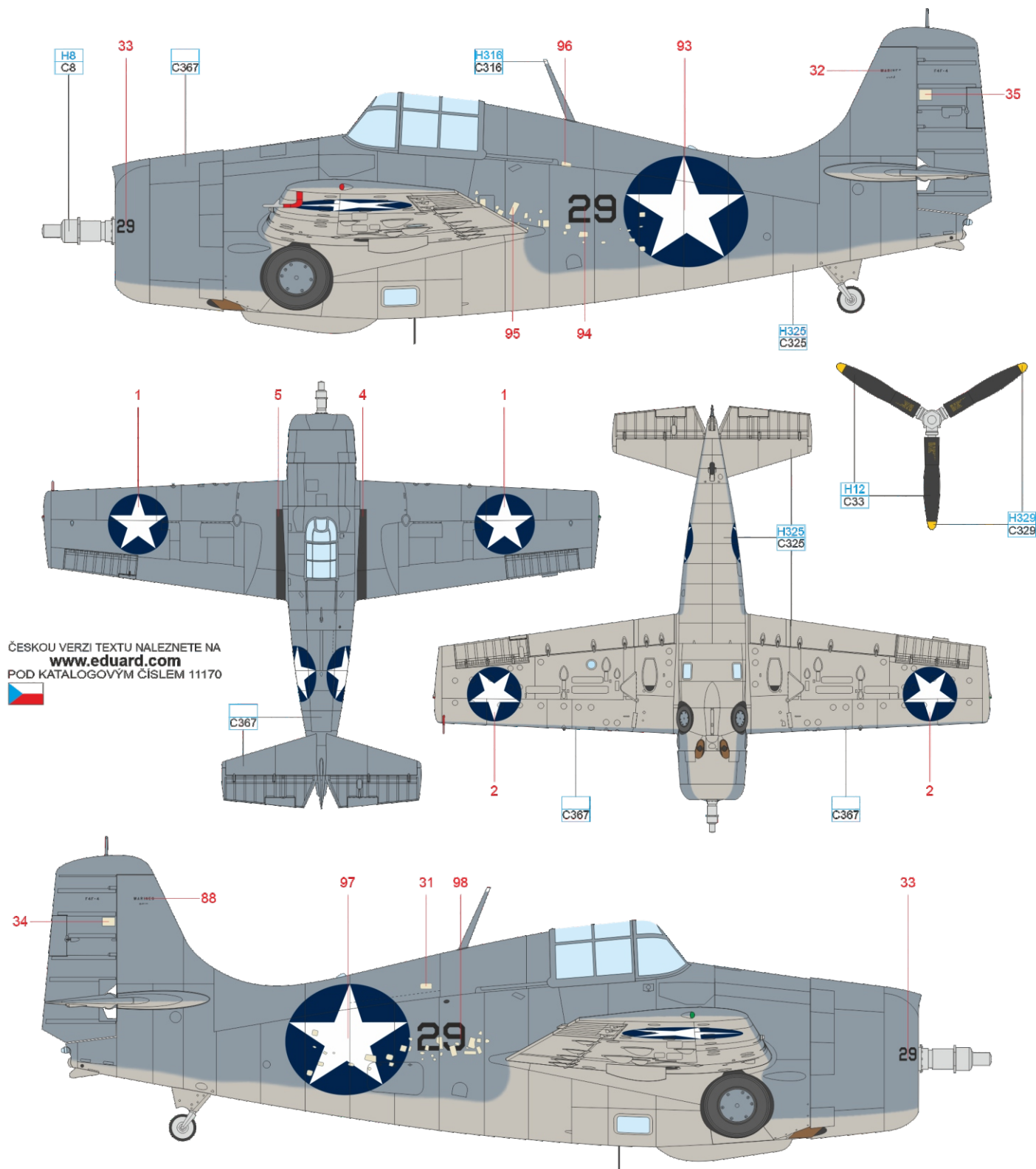
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# E 1/Lt. Jefferson J. DeBlanc, VMF-112/121, Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, January 1943

During his two tours of duty, Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc scored nine kills in the combats during the Guadalcanal and Okinawa campaigns. That made him 11th highest scoring Marines ace. During his mission on January 31, 1943, when escorting SBDs to attack Japanese ships, he detected a serious fuel leak, which made his return to base unlikely. He requested that rescue forces be altered and continued the mission, which resulted in a fierce combat with Japanese Ki-43 Oscars. DeBlanc managed to shoot down five of them but was wounded and had to bail out himself from his crippled and smoking Wildcat. After many mishaps he finally managed to get back to the base and to the hospital on February 12. This Wildcat also received an enemy burst. It happened on November 12, 1942, with 1/Lt. Sam Folsom at the controls. He managed to get it home and the Wildcat was repaired. Mechanics used white aircraft-fabric patches to cover the bullet holes, but the patches lost their white color soon in harsh, dusty environment ... DeBlanc was one of the pilots to use it, although it was assigned to VMF-121, while he was a member of VMF-112.



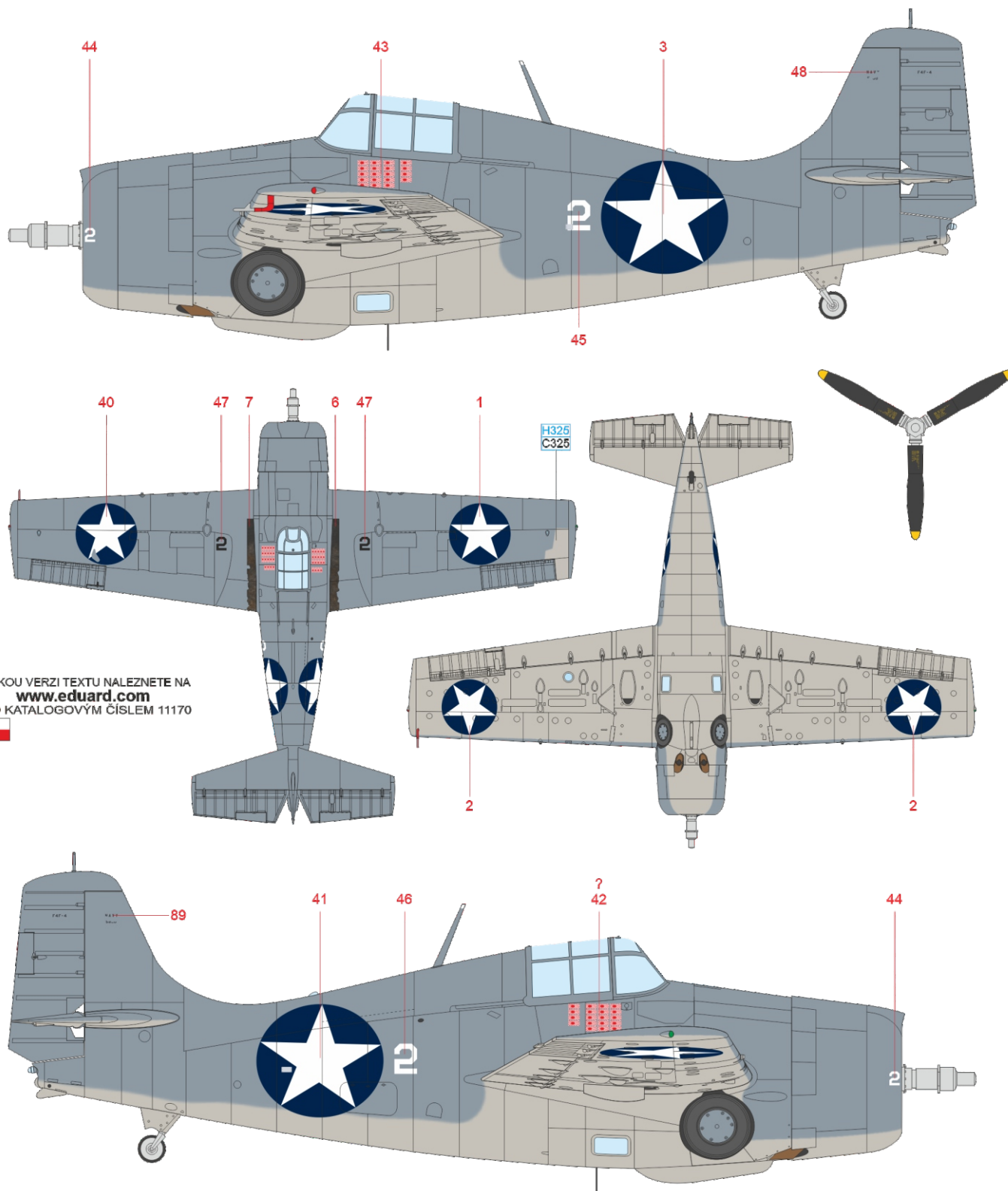
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## F Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, early 1943

Although good photos of this Wildcat are available, there are many questions regarding its identity. Usually, the aircraft is referred to 1/Lt. Marion Carl of VMF-223 or the CO of this unit, Maj. John L. Smith. Both were bright stars of the early stage of the Guadalcanal campaign amongst USMC pilots. The VMF-223 was the first one to land on Henderson Field together with VMSB-232. From August 20 they were frantically fighting Japanese aircraft until late October. Carl got 16,5 of them, Smith 19. That's one of the reasons this Wildcat is sometimes referred to latter, as it sports 19 kill marks. But the photos are dated to February 1943 when the VMF-223 was gone from Guadalcanal. According to some sources, Carl himself stated this aircraft was a non-airworthy aircraft he used for photo session with media at Espiritu Santo, following the end of the tour on Guadalcanal (i.e., in second half of October). Together with a mechanic, they reportedly put 19 kill mark stickers on. But there are no photos of Carl with this aircraft or in the cockpit ... More to it, other photos show visibly stained kill marks, one of them dated to March 22, 1943. Conclusion? It might be operational aircraft changing units and sporting the kills of all the pilots flying it. Or it might be really used for some photo session on Espiritu Santo in late October, but repaired and sent to Guadalcanal, keeping these kill marks applied. There were repairs on the right wing and on the fuselage, while roundel on the upper side of the left half of the wing showed some damage.



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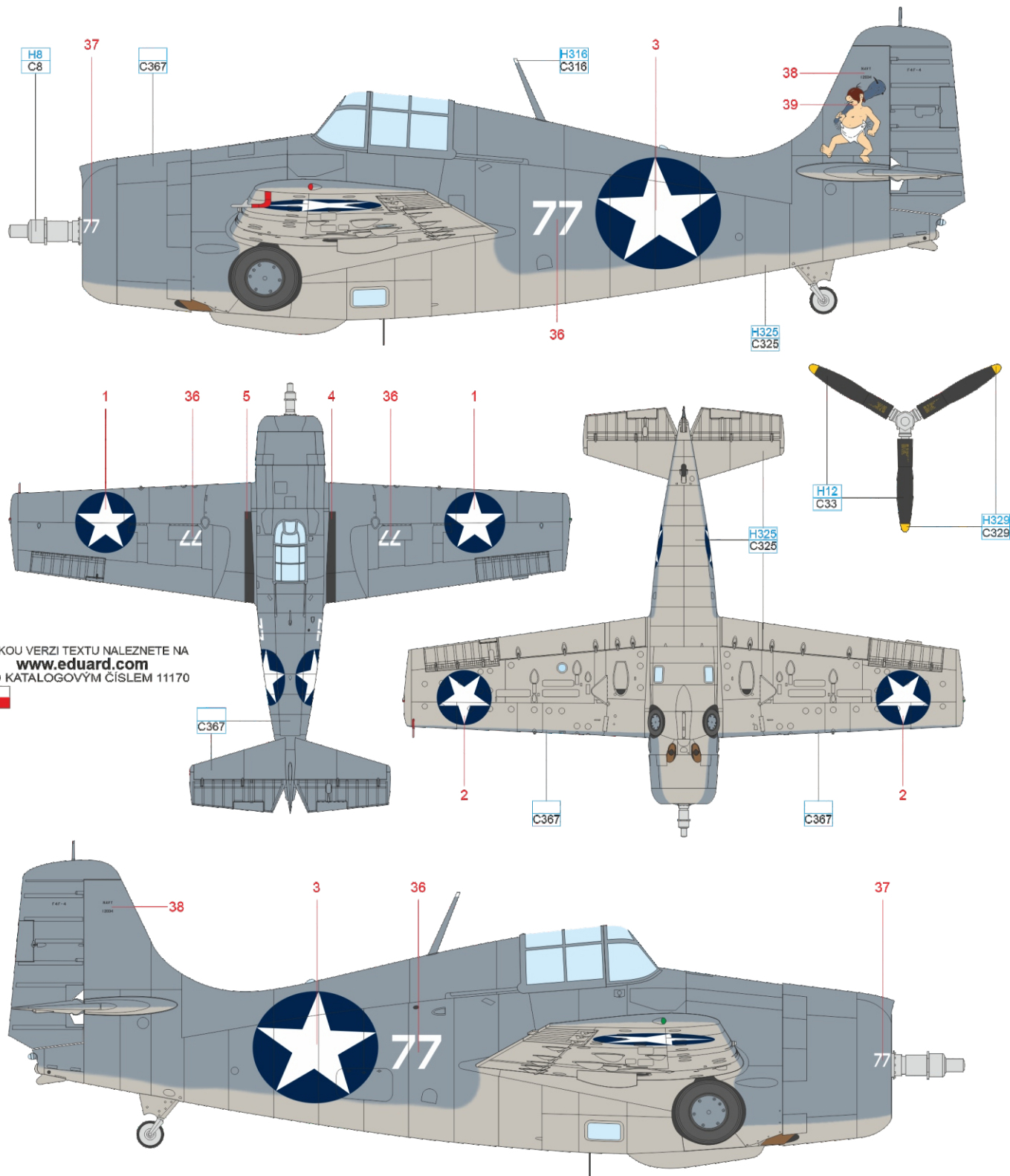


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This aircraft is usually attributed to 1/Lt. James E. Swett, a member of VMF-221. The squadron was based at Marine Corps Base Ewa on Oahu, Hawaii in early 1943, from where they moved to the island of Espiritu Santo aboard the USS Nassau (CVE-15). Most probably during their stay at Espiritu Santo, various arts were painted on the vertical fins of some of the squadron's Wildcats. In the case of No. 77, the painting was probably inspired by "Hairless Joe" from Al Capp's strips made for L'il Abner satiric strips (it was painted on the port side only). The squadron was moving to Guadalcanal in stages from February 1943 and there the "tail arts" became a thorn in the side of the commanding officers. So, probably not long after arrival, an order was issued to remove all the paintings. Lt. Swett was a leader of one of flights of VMF-221. He took off for his first combat flight on April 7 when the Japanese made a massive raid, sending approximately 70 bombers against Guadalcanal, covered by more than hundred Zeros. More than a hundred of American naval and Army fighters took off to defend the island, and the most successful among them was Swett, who managed to shoot down seven Val bombers before having to bail out himself. This was his only encounter with enemy aircraft in the cockpit of a Wildcat, as he subsequently switched to the Corsair and achieved 15.5 kills during his 103 total combat missions in WWII.



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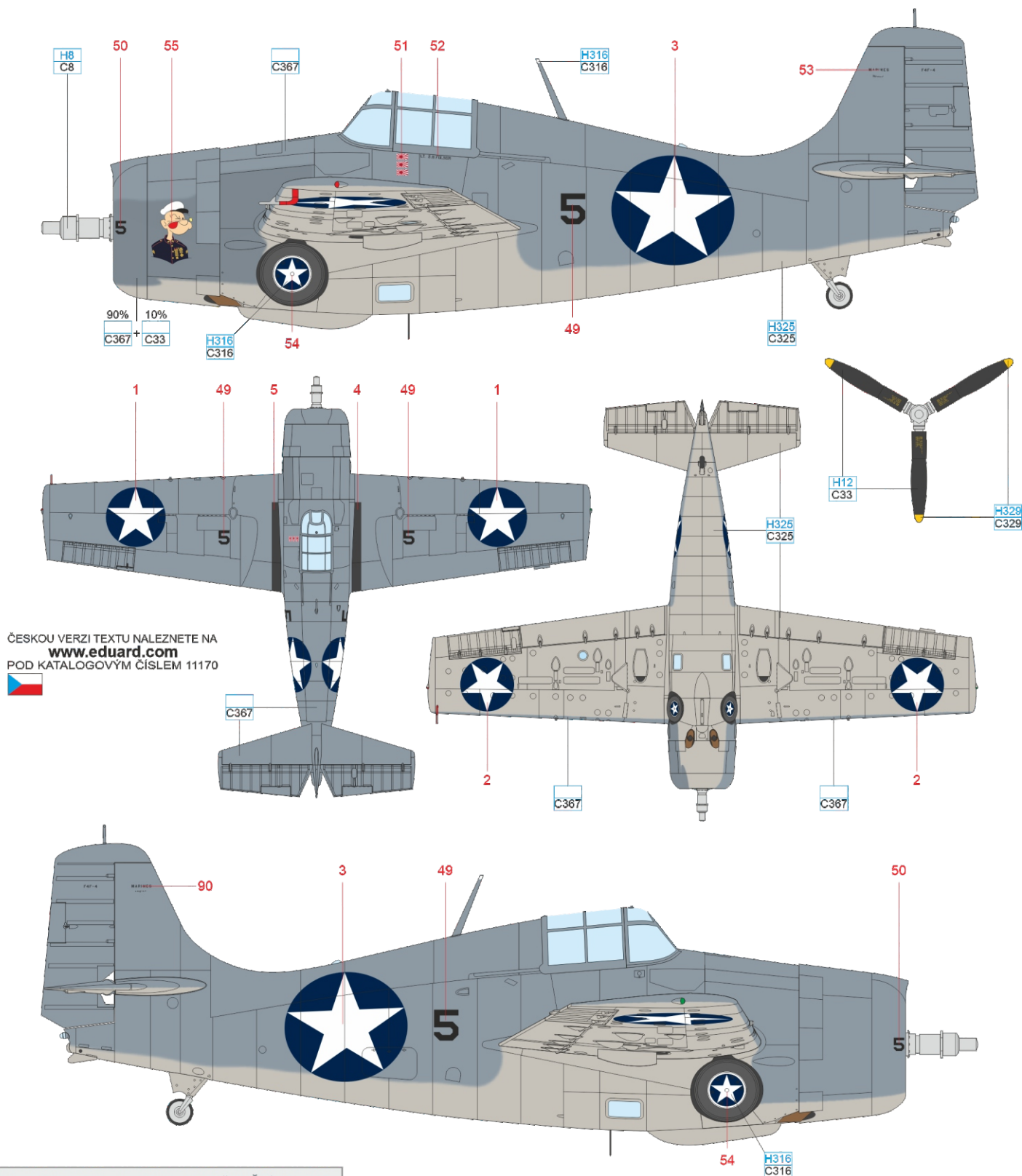
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# H 1/Lt Samuel B. Folsom, VMF-121, Samoa, Spring 1943

Nose arts were rare on the Navy and Marines aircraft, especially during the Guadalcanal campaign, where there was no time or resources to "play" with drawings. The Wildcat with the painting of Popeye on the port side of the engine cowl is one of rare exceptions, but it was not painted on Guadalcanal. In fact, the aircraft was part of the VMF-111 inventory, the unit which was operating on Samoa. Sam Folsom had the Popeye painted on the engine cowl when he was assigned to the unit as an instructor after his combat tour at Guadalcanal. The aircraft is sometimes portrayed with "winged" roundels, which is not correct. At the time the photographs of the Popeye Wildcat were shot, it still sported the original roundels. Folsom was rather inexperienced pilot when he was thrown with others of VMF-122 into the Battle of the Solomon Islands, but he was progressing rapidly. He stayed there for three months and was wounded twice. He scored his first kill on November 11, when he shot down a Zero. Just a day later, he shot down a Mitsubishi Betty bomber and added another one to finish the war with three victories.

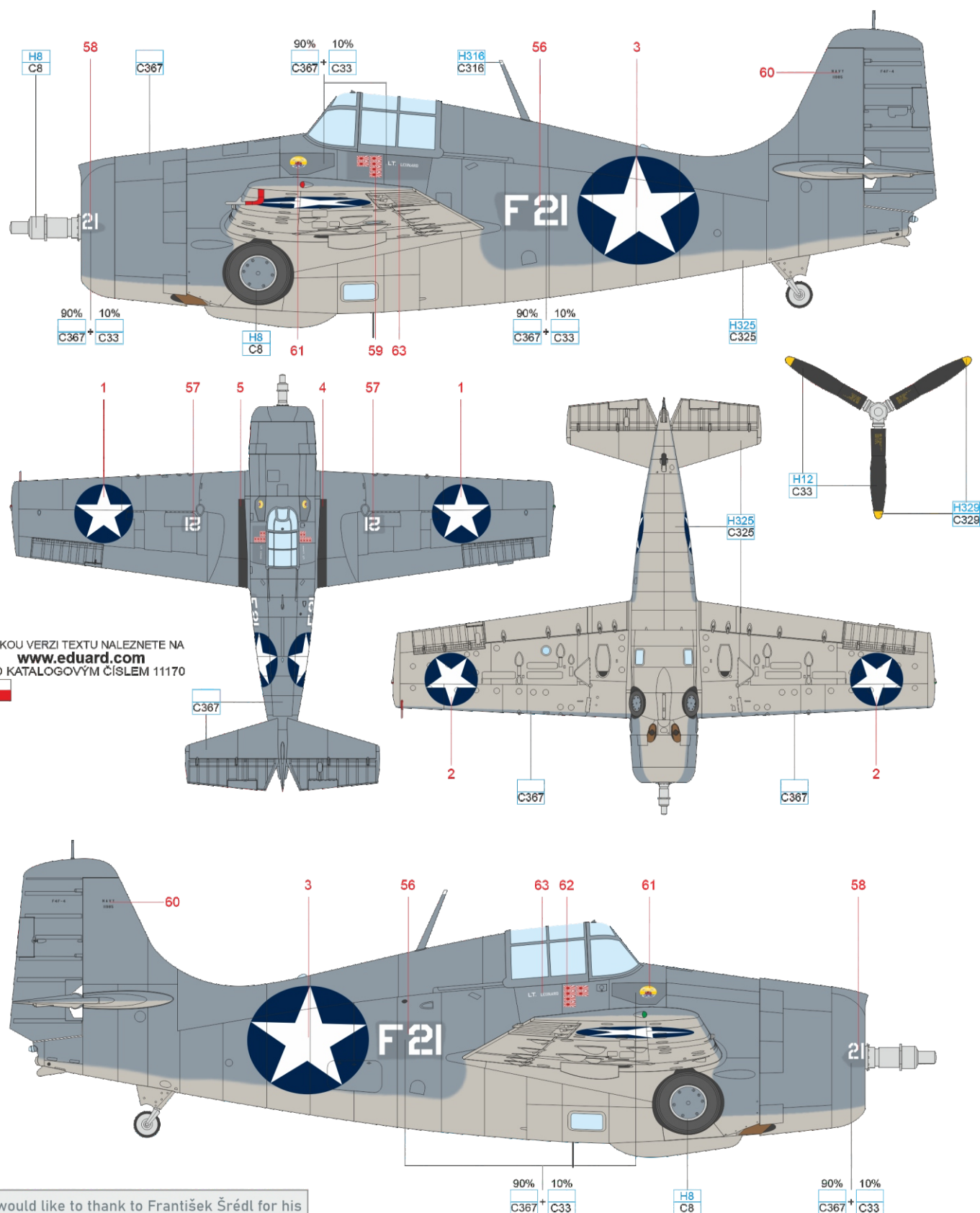


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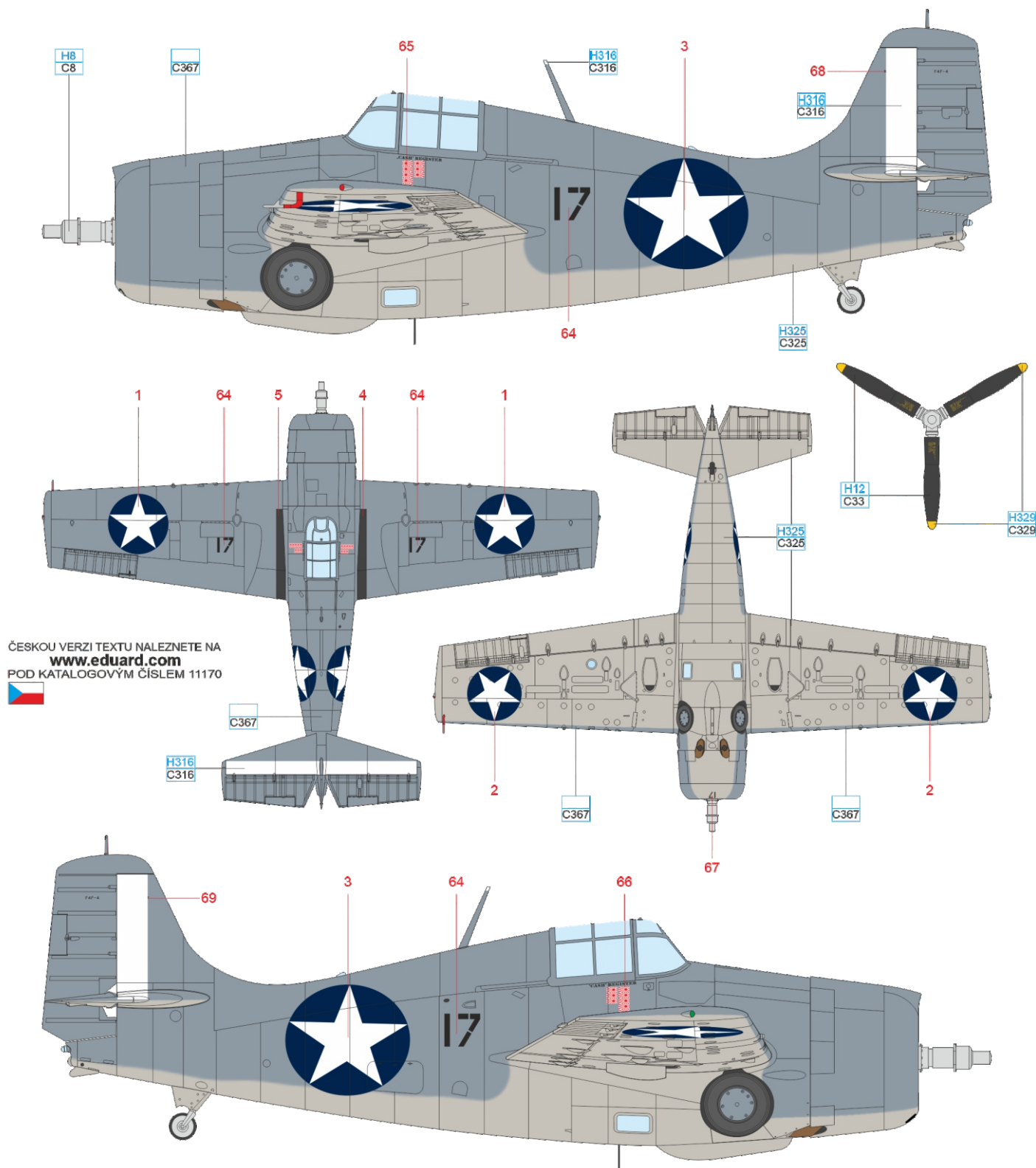
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Bill Leonard took part in the battles at Coral Sea and Midway, where he made himself an ace during his service with VF-42 and VF-3. In August 1942 he joined new VF-11 squadron and became its Operations Officer. He served at Guadalcanal in 1943 and added two more kills to his tally. It happened on June 12, 1943, when he shot down two Zeros flying this aircraft and this achievement made him the ace. After his three-month tour in Guadalcanal, he was transferred to Samoa, ending his time with VMF-121. Leonard's Wildcat sported the Sun Downers symbol painted on both sides as well as four kill marks (six after June 12). The panels with the VF-11 symbol and port side under the cockpit were repainted, probably by fresh camouflage color. The same pays to the area of the fuselage code.



# J Lt.(jg) Francis R. Register, VF-11, VC-21, USS Nassau (CVE-15), May 1943

Francis Ronald Register enlisted to Navy on February 17, 1941, and joined the VF-3 squadron on January 4, 1942. While still on USS Saratoga, he changed the unit for VF-6 and saw combat in the Eastern Solomons. He managed to shoot down two aircraft on August 24, one of them identified as Zero and the other strangely as "Me 109". After the Saratoga was torpedoed on August 31, he joined VF-5, based at the Guadalcanal, and added two more victories on September 12 and 13. Two weeks later he entered the prominent club of fighter aces by shooting down two Zeros and prior to leaving the "Death Island", he added two more victories and one probable. On March 23 "Cash", as was his nickname joined his old VF-3 unit but was detached to Composite Squadron 21 (VC-21) just four days later. On board of USS Nassau (CVE-15), he was set to participate in the Aleutian Campaign, but perished there in the flying accident. The aircraft he boarded the USS Nassau (CVE-15) sported seven kill marks from the Guadalcanal, and the white stripes on the horizontal and vertical stabilizers, distinguishing the aircraft of the fights for Attu Island. Register's diary describing in the raw manner the harsh living on Guadalcanal is available on Internet.



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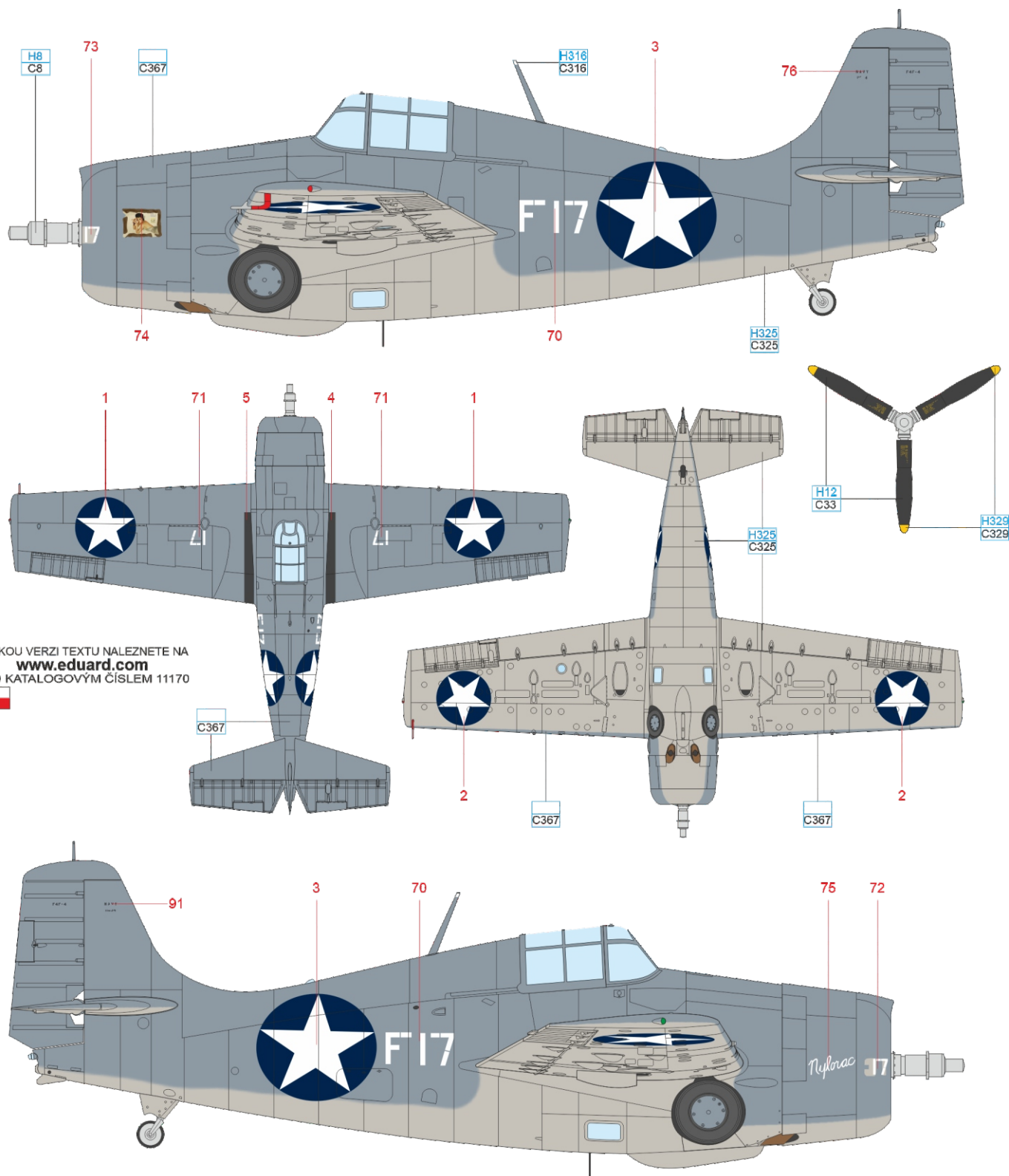
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# K VF-11, Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, May 1943

As there were not too many possibilities and opportunities to adorn the aircraft with any personal paintings, the Wildcats on Guadalcanal were uniform regardless the unit. But there were some attempts to make the aircraft at least a little bit specific by easier means. This F4F-4 is an example as the page from the 1943 Esquire calendar with the January girl painted by the famous Alberto Vargas was glued to the port side of the engine cowl. More to it, on starboard side the inscription "Nylorac" was painted (a slang word meaning somebody who gets close personally, then betrays and hurts you). The short movie shows Lt. Gordon Cady standing by this Wildcat, but it is the only indication about any link between this Wildcat and him. The VF-11 was divided into flights of four aircraft and Cady was leading the second one, which assigned his aircraft number 5, while No. 17 was the aircraft of the leader of the 5th flight, Lt. Raymond "Sully" Vogel. But Vogel damaged his Wildcat in the collision with the aircraft of Lt.(jg) Maxwell on May 2, 1943 and "the new No. 17" might be the Nylorac ... Cady shot down two Zeros and Vogel added another one kill in the same combat on June 7.



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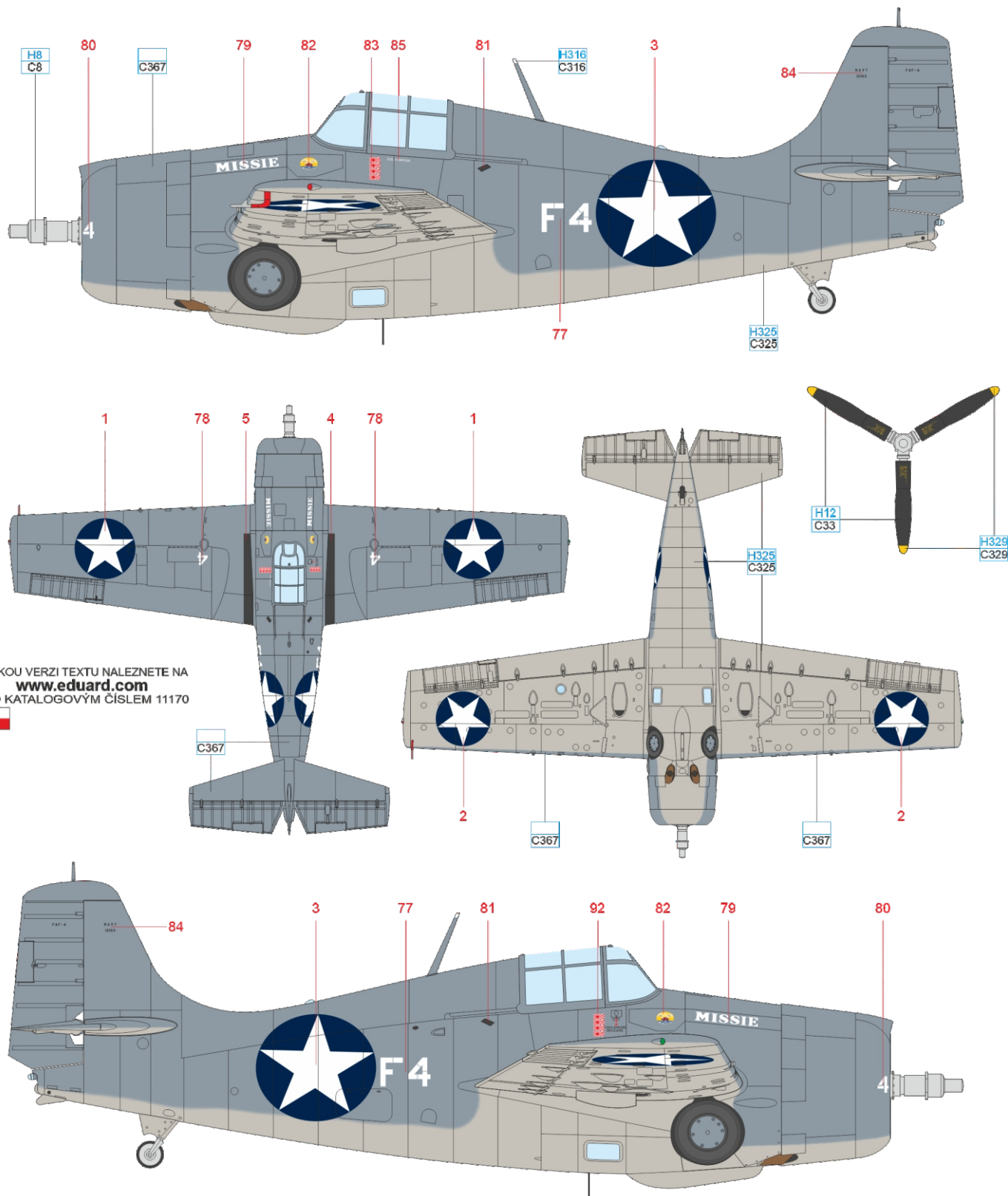


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Charles Russell Stimpson was 16-victory ace, ranking him eighth in the Navy list of aces, sharing this position with Ira Kepford. Stimpson enlisted in the Navy on June 17, 1941, the pilot training followed. He joined newly formed VF-11 in the summer of 1942 and served with the unit until February 1945. He served at Guadalcanal from May to July 1943, achieving six victories there. His maiden fighter success came on June 16, when he shot down four Vals flying this aircraft. According to some sources, he was flying Wildcat BuNo. 12163 at the time. Four kill marks were applied under the cockpit of the aircraft named "Missie" of the unknown BuNo. It might be the 12163 but it is not certain. Stimpson shot down two Zeros in July 1943 in the cockpit of the same aircraft and added ten more kills in 1944, while still with VF-11 but flying Hellcats. After serving as a flight instructor from April to September 1945, he was released from active duty on October 11, 1945.



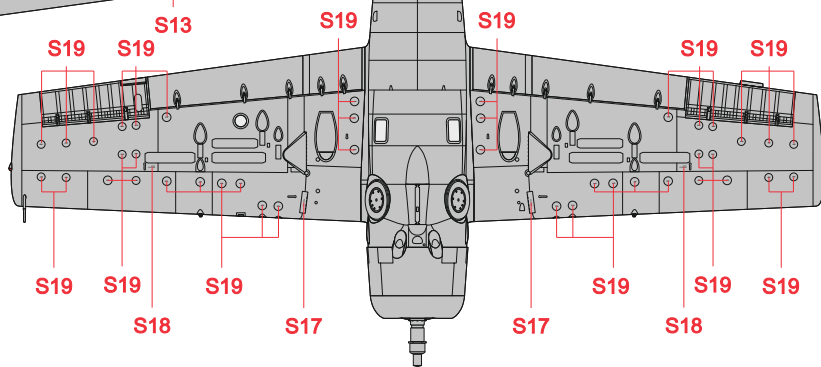
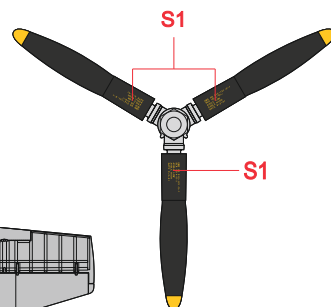
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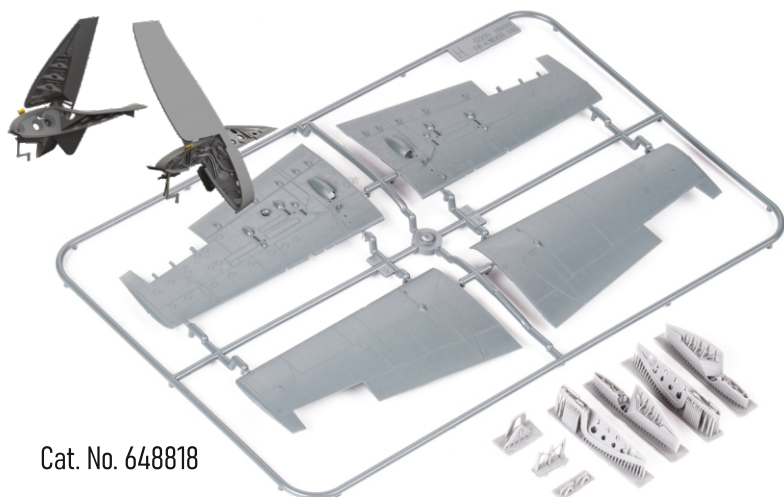
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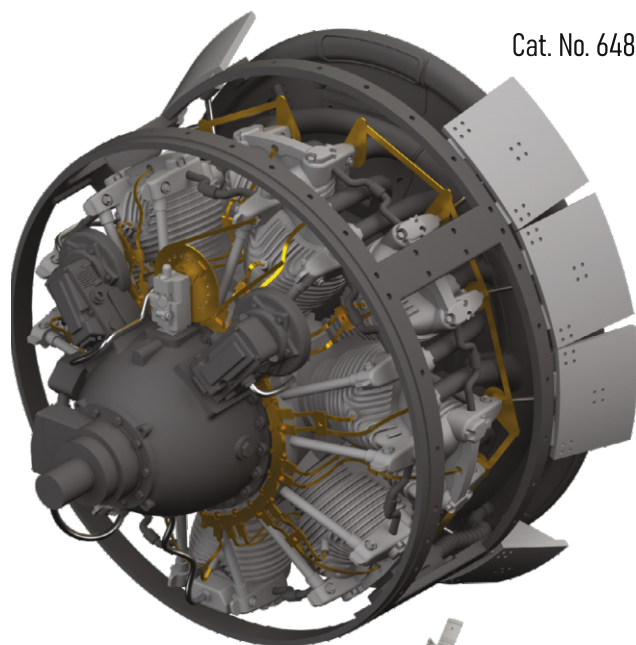
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- FE1290 F4F seatbelts STEEL (PE-Set)
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- 648756 F4F 42gal ventral drop tank PRINT (Brassin)
- 648769 F4F gun barrels PRINT (Brassin)
- 648779 F4F undercarriage legs BRONZE (Brassin)
- 648803 F4F-4 cockpit PRINT (Brassin)
- 648815 F4F-4 wheels early (Brassin)
- 648816 F4F-4 wheels late (Brassin)
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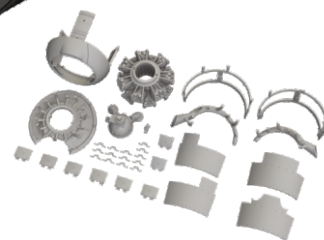
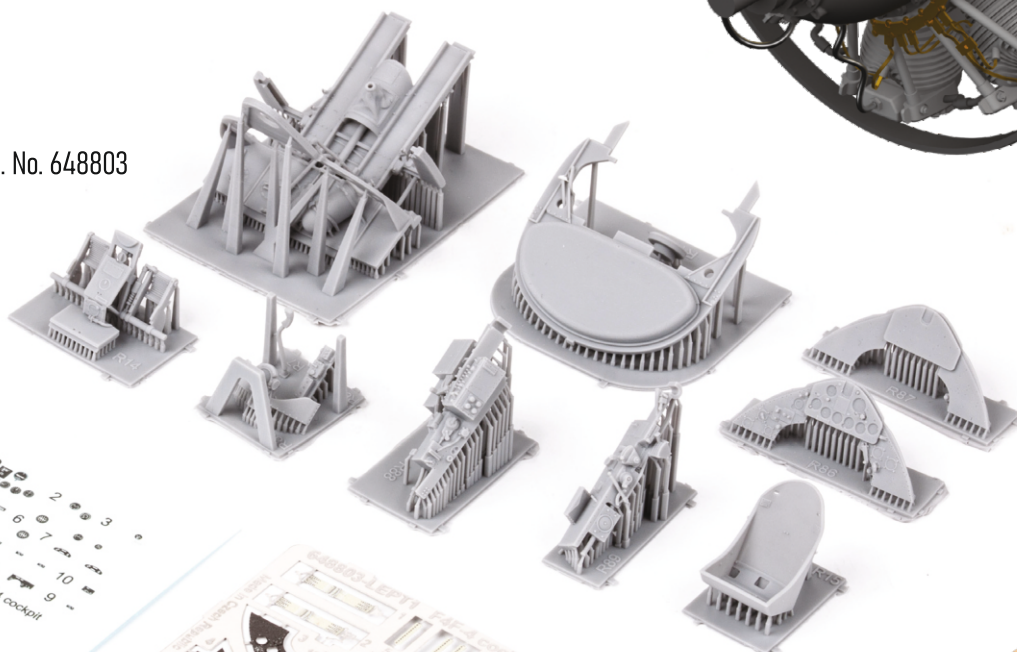


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