

THUNDERCALS 48-002 PTO Part 2



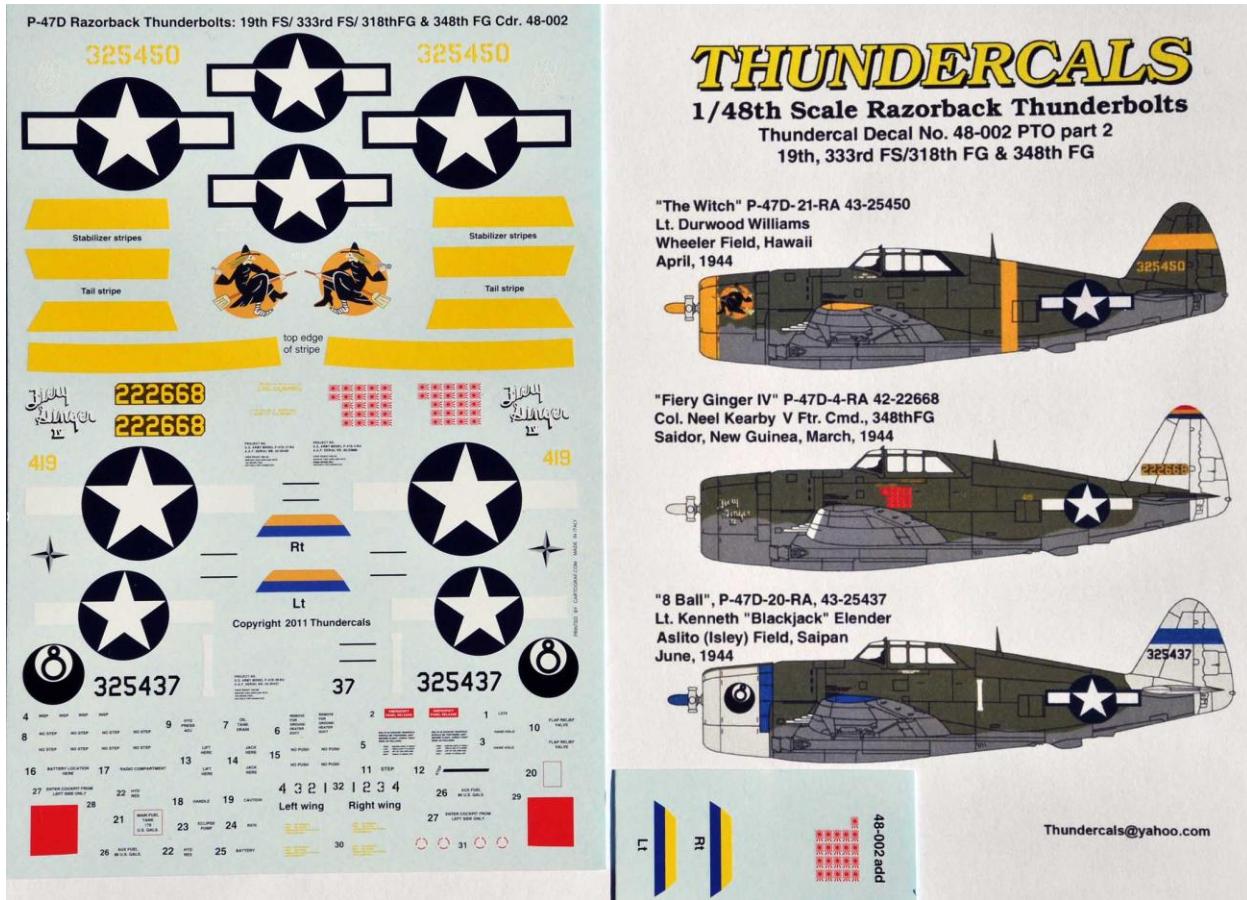
By Mike Hanlon

One of the wonders of 1/48 modeling world, the Tamiya P-47 Razorback has been with us for nearly a decade. A marvel of engineering, the kit represents a rewarding building experience, and with just a little care, a great model can be produced by any modeler.

From a modeler builder's perspective, one of the things that make models great are colorful and interesting markings. For the P-47, the modeler is offered a wide variety of aftermarket markings for the 8th and 9th Air Forces as well as a fair number of 12th Air

Force birds. Much less well known and documented are P-47s operating in the Pacific Theatre.

Norris Graser has provided research on aircraft markings to model companies such as Revell/Monogram and MRC as well as decal manufacturers, Superscale, Aeromaster, Cutting Edge, EagleCals, Eagle Strike and Zotz. Norris also wrote the Alan Hall Warpaint Special P-47 Thunderbolt. Now he has released two P-47 Razorback sheet under his own label, Thundercals.



The first sheet covers two aircraft—one from the 58th Fighter group and another, from the 318th Fighter Group in the Pacific. The second includes three aircraft two from the 318th Fighter Group and one from the 348th Fighter Group. Of these five aircraft, only one, Neel Kearby's "Fiery Ginger IV" has been done before. Norris was kind enough to provide me with an early copy of the instructions for both sheets and I began working on two of the aircraft from the second sheet even before the decals were printed.

I have always wanted to do "Fiery Ginger" and the new sheet gave me the perfect excuse.

A P-47D-4 from 1943, the aircraft has simple markings consisting of Olive Drab over Neutral Gray with White leading edges and tail. Personal markings consist of a shadow

shaded name and a large kill board. Kearby had twenty-two kills and these are reflected on the sheet. Two kill boards are included although only one is needed on the port side below the cockpit. The second kill board was supposed to have twenty-one flags for a slightly earlier version on Fiery Ginger IV. Somewhere between the design of the sheet and the printing, the second kill board was "corrected" to mirror the first.



The model converted to the -4 by replacing the cowl flaps with the Loon Resin early style cowl flaps. It is painted with Tamiya Neutral Gray and Olive Drab. The Tamiya OD is a very dark color so I mixed it with Tamiya Yellow Green before spraying. After applying the base coat; I increased the amount Yellow Green in the mix to represent fading and wear of the paint. Cartograf of Italy prints the decals and the colors and quality are extraordinary. Everything settled down nicely over a coat of Future floor acrylic.



My second choice was "The Witch" a 318th aircraft that was stationed in Hawaii. The simple OD over Neutral Gray scheme is accentuated by yellow stripes, propeller hub, cowl and wing tips. Thundercals provides yellow decal stripes for the tail planes and fuselage band. Painting the wing tips and cowl are left to the modeler. I chose to paint



all the yellow areas including the stripes using Gunze Sangyo RLM 04 Yellow over a base coat of Tamiya Flat White. I again used Tamiya OD and Neutral Gray. The OD was lightened with Yellow Green to show wear. Pictures of "The Witch" show that the aircraft operated off of dirt or grass landing strips and was filthy. I chose not to weather it quite that much.

As you can see from the pictures the decals worked perfectly over a coat of Future.

If you want to build a P-47 and are looking for some colorful and unique markings, these sheets will certainly meet your needs. They would certainly work well on the Hasegawa, Revell or Otaki Razorback kits, but the Tamiya P-47 is just in an entirely different class.

For Thundercals and 100's of other available decals, go here:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngraser/Decals>

