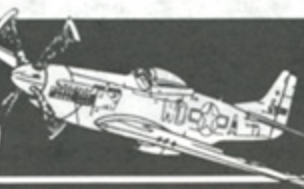


# TGR



## Tarheel Ace Part 2

GS-48003

1/48th Scale

### THREE GUYS REPLICAS



Contains the most accurate markings ever produced for the WWII fighters flown by the USAAF Tarheel Ace Major George E. Preddy, Jr.

On Christmas Afternoon 1944, Major George E. Preddy, Jr was the leading active USAAF fighter pilot in the ETO with 27.5 confirmed aerial victories when he was shot down and killed by a US Army M16 quad-fifty halftrack while chasing a Fw190 over the Hürtgen Forest. George Preddy flew his first combat missions with the 49th Fighter Group in Australia. He did not claim any victories before being injured bailing out of his P-40E after a mid-air collision during a training flight in July 1942. In early 1943, he joined the 487th Fighter Squadron, 352nd Fighter Group which soon deployed to Bodney, England. He downed his first victim, a Messerschmitt 109, on 1 December flying his P-47D *Cripes A'Mighty*. His third and last victory in the Thunderbolt came on 29 January 1944 in P-47D 42-8421 coded HO-Y, which he ditched in the English Channel. After the 352nd received the new P-51 Mustang fighter in early April, Preddy's score rose quickly. In mid-June, he was assigned one of the Group's first bubble-canopy P-51Ds, 44-13321, which he named *Cripes A'Mighty Third*. More victories (21 officially credited including four by John C. Meyer) were credited to 44-13321 than any other Mustang in WWII, with Preddy shooting down an unprecedented six Bf109s on 6 August. After racking up a combined scoreboard of 31 air and ground victory crosses (above), Preddy left for a short stateside tour in August, 1944. He returned to the 352nd in late October to take command of the 328th FS and added four more aerial victories, the last two coming on 25 December 1944.

The Preddy family of Greensboro, North Carolina, served proudly in WWII. George's younger brother Bill was also a fighter pilot in the Eighth Air Force, arriving in January, 1945 to fly with the 339th Fighter Group based at Fowlmere, England. Bill Preddy could have been exempted from combat but chose instead to fly. He was lost on a mission near Prague on 17 April 1945 and lies buried next to his brother at the Lorraine American Military Cemetery near Metz, France. Markings for his P-51K *Rusty* are included in this decal sheet.

Three Guys Replicas have two decal sheets to provide the serious scale modeler with all the versions of all of George Preddy's WWII fighters. Please see our companion sheet GS-48002 Tarheel Ace Part 1 for P-40E *Tarheel*, P-51B *Cripes A'Mighty* (second), and P-51Ds *Cripes A'Mighty Third* as marked before 18 July 1944 and the fourth *Cripes A'Mighty* as of 25 December, 1944.



In a photo taken between 1 and 22 December 1943, *Cripes A' Mighty's* Black and White main wheel covers and Preddy's first victory cross are evident. Note the 75-gallon drop tank under the fuselage and the covers on the gun tubes to keep out the English damp.

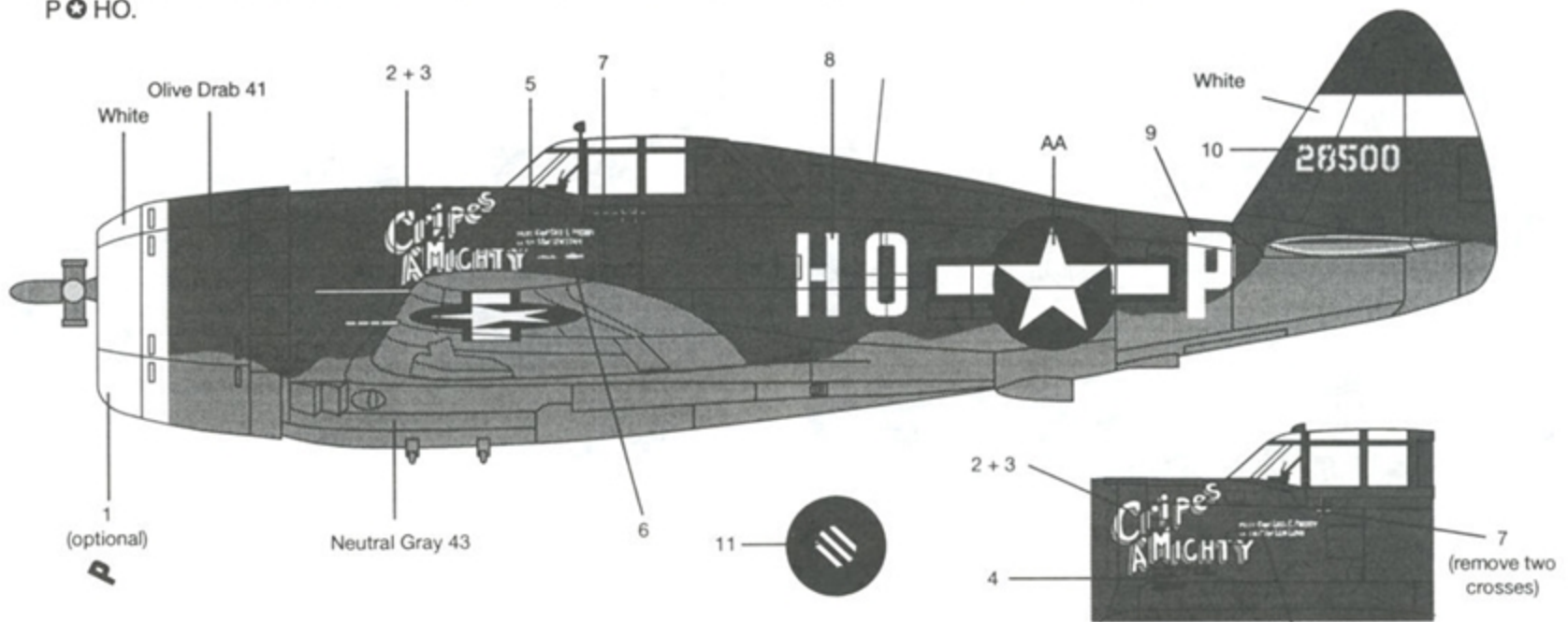


The last *Cripes A' Mighty* in late October, 1944. Note the twin rear view mirrors and the absence of any wing ID markings and "Snyderisms." A solid cover replaces the 32-hole air breather plate under the exhausts.



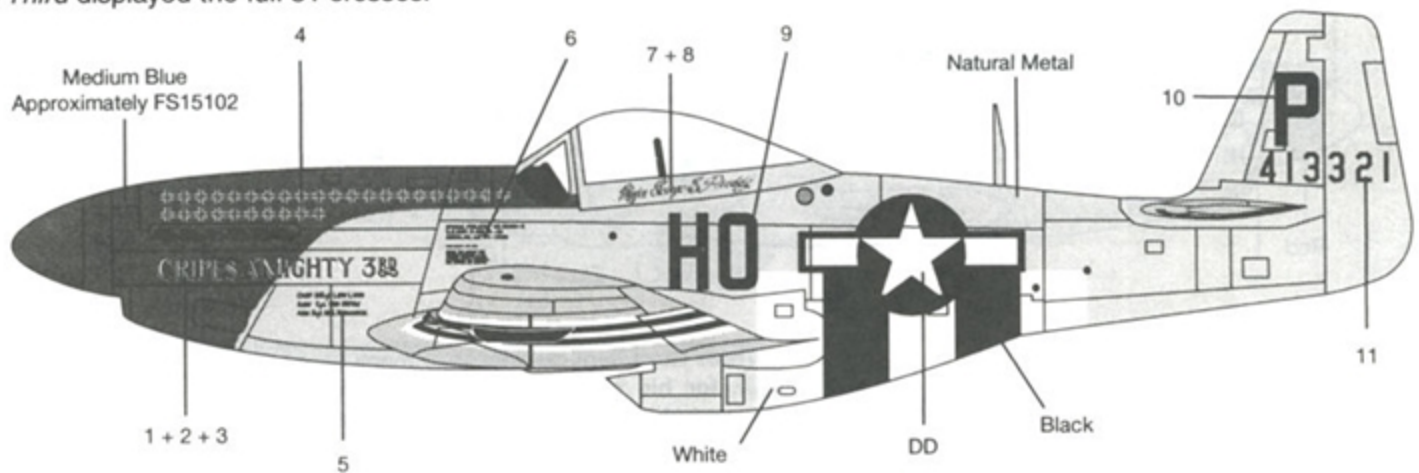
**A** P-47D-5-RE 42-8500 *Cripes A'Mighty* 487th FS, 352nd FG Bodney, England January 1944

Olive Drab 41 and Neutral Gray 43 with White ETO identification bands on the cowl and vertical tail and Black and White main wheel covers. Many 487th aircraft carried Black individual code letters under the nose, but this has not been confirmed on *Cripes A'Mighty*. Note the original rear view mirror and the one victory carried during December 1943 (see inset). A third cross and Yellow caterpillar and goldfish were added after Freddy's victory and ditching in the English Channel on 29 January 1944. Codes on the right side read P HO.



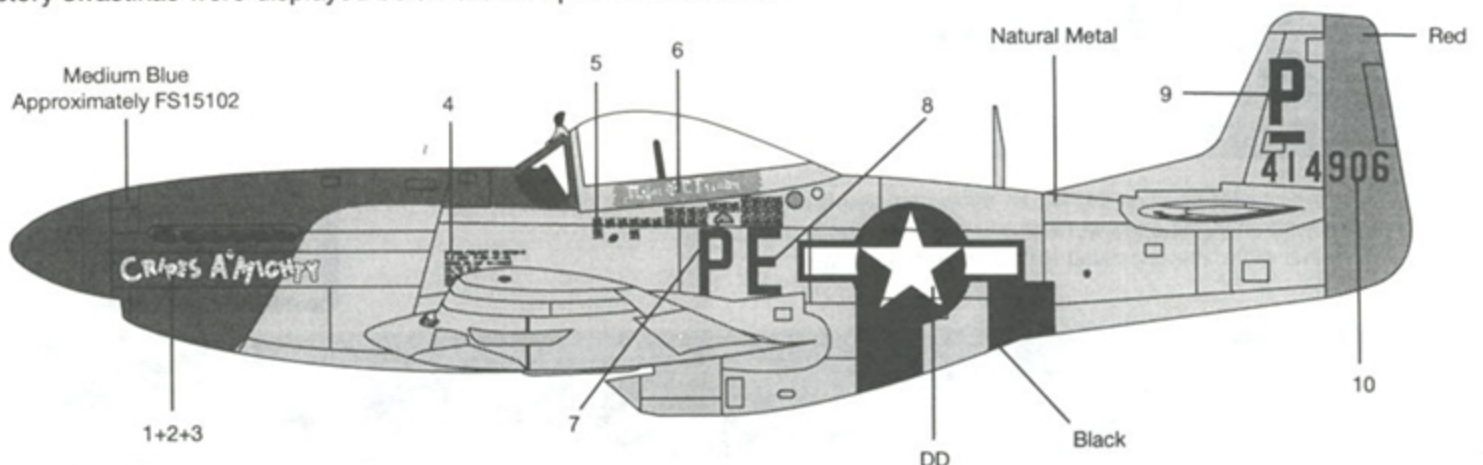
**B** P-51D-5-NA 44-13321 *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* 487th FS, 352nd FG Bodney, England August 1944

Overall Natural Metal Finish with 352nd FG Medium Blue nose and spinner and Invasion Stripes and Black ETO ID bands on lower surfaces only. Wing pylons were painted Black a part of the Invasion Stripe application. Shortly before 18 July, all ID markings were removed from the upper surfaces, the tail code letter was modified, crew names were added and the 32-hole air breather plate was replaced with a solid cover. After the 18 July mission twenty-one White crosses were carried in a single row forward of the windscreen. After 6 August 1944, *Cripes Third* displayed the full 31 crosses.

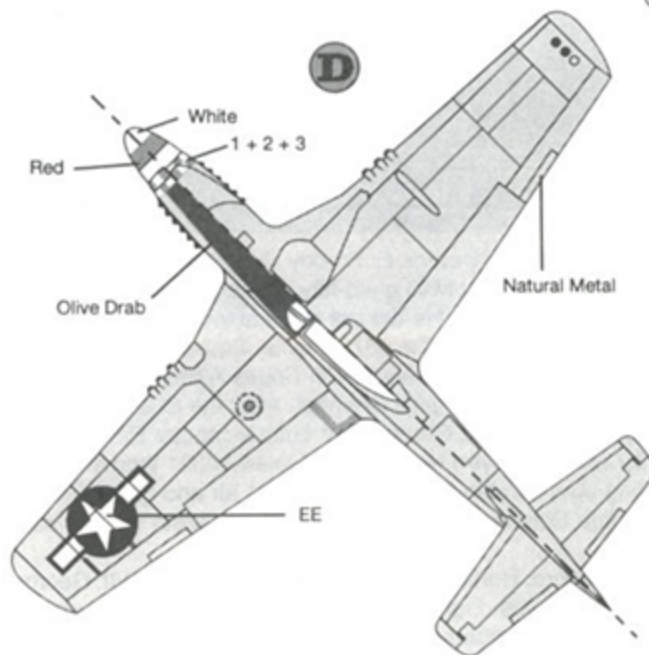
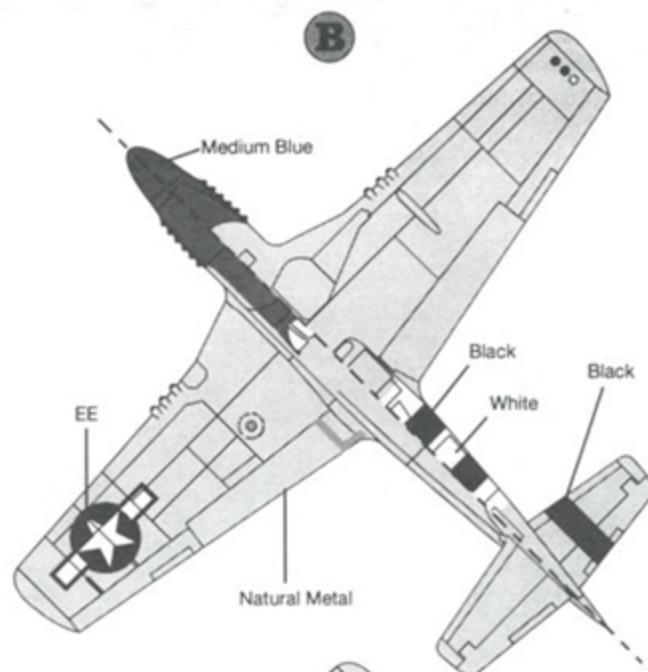
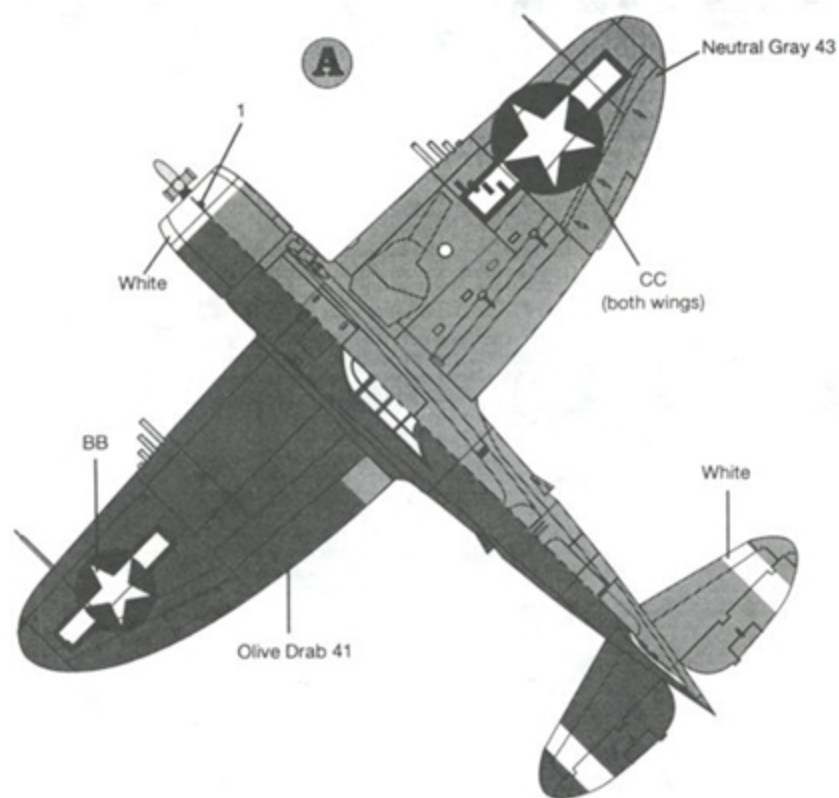


**C** P-51D-15-NA 44-14906 *Cripes A'Mighty* 328th FS, 352nd FG Bodney, England October 1944

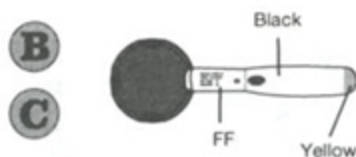
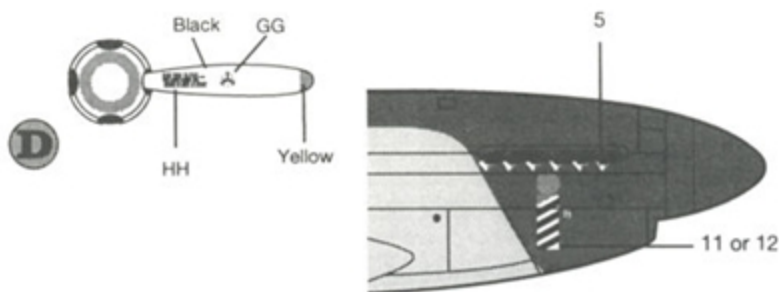
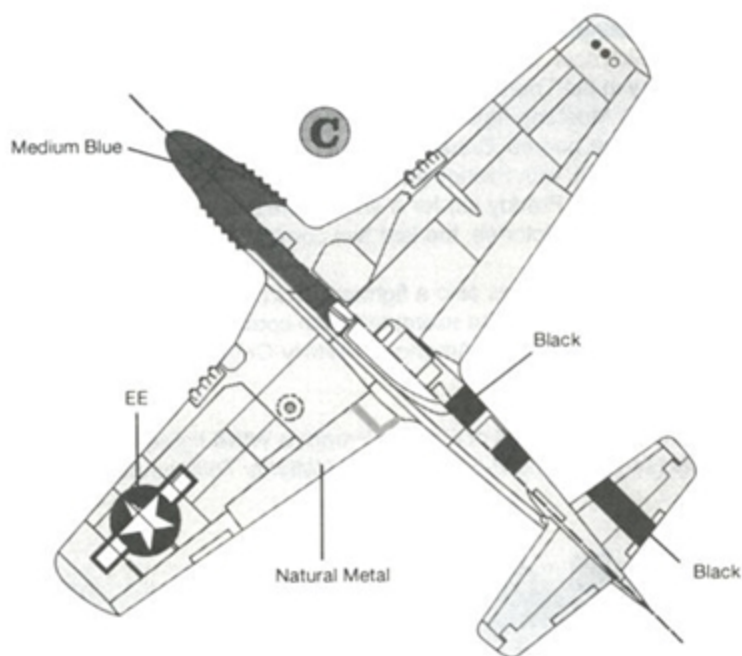
Natural Metal Finish with 352nd FG Medium Blue nose and spinner and 328th FS Red rudder. Black ID stripes applied under the fuselage and horizontal tail only. Note the twin rear view mirrors on the windscreen and the absence of air breather plates under the nose. Thirty-one victory swastikas were displayed below the cockpit on the left side.







Custom Art by



Art "Snoots" Snyder, crew chief of the fourth *Cripes A'Mighty*, was also the squadron barber. He painted barber poles on all his aircraft to advertise his off-duty business. Note the price of a haircut, "one and three," one shilling thruppence, just forward of the pole! Photographs suggest a three-color pole with Black or Dark Blue stripes but Snyder remembers it with a Red ball and Red stripes. Both options are provided for the modeler to choose.

**Recommended 1/48 Scale Kits:**

Monogram, Otaki/Arii P-47D Razorback  
 Hasegawa, Monogram, Tamiya P-51D  
 Hasegawa P-51K

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**THREE GUYS REPLICAS**





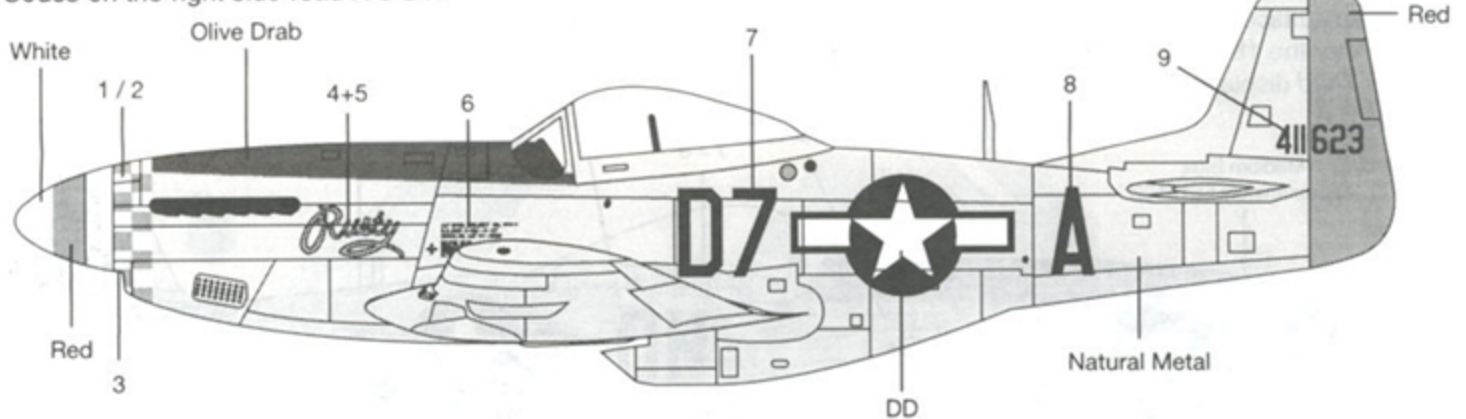
*Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* with 21 crosses photographed on 18 or 19 July 1944. Invasion Stripes removed from the upper wing and fuselage and pilot and ground crew names added.



Assistant Crew Chief Sgt. Deigman on the wing of *Cripes* (fourth) in late October 1944. Note the flare port between the bottom two swastikas, the fuel filler cap, and the location of the Black ID stripe under the fuselage star.

**D** P-51K-5-NT 44-11623 *Rusty* 503rd FS, 339th FG Fowlmere, England Spring 1945

Lieutenant Bill Preddy's *Rusty* was in overall Natural Metal Finish with a Dark Olive Drab antiglare panel. The White and Red spinner and nose checks were the 339th FG markings, the Red rudder identified the 503rd FS. The name *Rusty* appeared on the left nose only. Codes on the right side read A D7.



The Aeroproducts propeller used on the P-51K shows up clearly in this photo of *Rusty* taken in the snow in February or March 1945. Note the air breather plate, the uncowed exhausts and the bulged canopy.

Three Guys Replicas wishes to thank Sam L. Sox, Jr. for his generous and patient help in the preparation of these decal sheets. Thanks also go to Ed Esposito for his inputs, without which these sheets might not have happened.

References

- P-51 Mustang in Action, L. Davis, 1981
- George Preddy Top Mustang Ace, J. Noah & S. Sox, 1991
- Mustang Aces of the Eighth Air Force, J. Scutt, 1994

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**Authenticity Guarantee!**

All Three Guys Replicas Decals are based on original photographs, technical descriptions and/or first person accounts depicting all markings. This ensures when you purchase any Three Guys Replicas Decal Sheet you are buying the most accurate decals possible.

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