



## B-29 The Spearhead

For use with:

48019 1/48 Monogram B-29

72011 1/72 Academy B-29



At 09:05, the morning of 19 February, 1945, the first of thirty-thousand United States Marines and Navy personnel of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Marine Divisions landed on the island of Iwo Jima. On 23 February, Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th MAR DIV, raised the flag of the United States atop Mount Suribachi, the act of which arguably produced the most iconic photograph of World War II. The nose-art of "The Spearhead" is based upon Joe Rosenthal's award winning photo. Thirty-one days later the island was declared secured, and on 5 April, the Army Air Force commenced official operations of the critically strategic airfield which was the reason for the amphibious assault. As a result of the capture of this island, and its' airfield, 2,400 B-29s were able to make emergency landings while going to, or returning from, their missions to Japan.

The B-29 that is the subject of this decal sheet was based on Tinian, and belonged to the 20th Air force, First Bomb Squadron, 9th Bomb Group, 313th Bomb Wing. As recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by the Marines of the 5th MAR DIV, a brand new replacement aircraft was dedicated to these Marines. It carried as nose-art on the port side of the aircraft a rendition of the Flag Raising photograph, and on the starboard side of the nose, a large spearhead with the 5th MAR DIV shoulder patch, known as a Battle Blaze in the Marine Corps at this time. Both of these pieces of art were painted by Airman William F. Nesbitt. This aircraft completed 25 missions against the Japanese mainland and participated in the last bombing mission flown on the 14th of August, the Japanese surrendered the following morning.

"The Spearhead" was flown by crew #11A which had flown 14 combat missions in the B-29 named "Man O War" and an additional 25 combat missions in "The Spearhead". Crew #11A was made up of the following personnel: Major Dave Rogan, A/C; 2ndLt Warren F. Myers, Jr., Pilot; 2nd Lt Frank P. Maxwell, Navigator; 2ndLt Francis B. Spaulding, Bombardier; 2ndLt Hallis K. Hanchett, FltEng; T/Sgt Edward C. Aston, Radar Operator; Sgt William R. Angsten, Radio Navigator; T/Sgt Joseph M. Munneke, Central Fire Control; Sgt Burton Dyer, Right Gunner; Sgt Langdon T. Dyer, Left Gunner; Sgt Robert K. Watts, Tail Gunner; and MSgt James C. Hudson, Crew Chief. The two Sergeants named Dyer were twin brothers and are believed to be the only twins to serve in the same crew within the 20th Air Force.

All of these men were unique in their own way, but Major Dave Rogan, the Airplane Commander, is definitely a rare breed unto himself. Dave Rogan joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in April of 1941. He flew numerous missions in a Bristol Blendheim Mk4 as a Flight Officer in the RCAF. He helped to lay the smoke screen during the "Raid in Force" at Dieppe, France, in August of 1942, which tested most of the assault techniques to be used twenty-two months later in Normandy. He transferred to the 8th Air Force, USAAF, in September of 1942 and flew B-17s as part of the 358th Bomb squadron, 303rd Bomb Group "Hell's Angels". He flew 25 combat missions with them before answering the call for experienced heavy bomber crew volunteers for transition to a "NEW" heavy bomber – the B-29. He returned to the States and trained in NM, OK and NE to be assigned to the B-29. Arriving on Tinian in January of 1945, he and the rest of the 11A crew flew 14 combat missions in "Man O War" and 19 combat missions in "The Spearhead" for a total of 33 combat missions without an abort.

Major Rogan, and Crew #11A, were true American Heroes, and this decal sheet is being offered by Warbird Decals as a tribute to them.

Special thanks to Ron Reynolds of Kansas City MO for the detailed reference he provided for this decal.

Feedback and requests for future subjects along with photos and other documentation are always welcomed and will be considered for future projects.

Please contact the research team at Warbird Decals  
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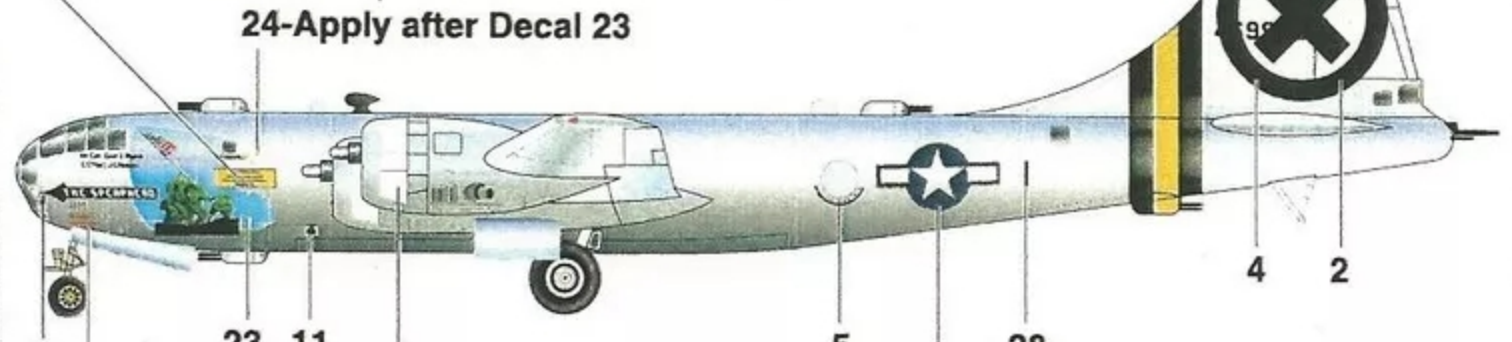
Decal numbers followed by \* are for the 1/48 only.

Remove fairing from fuselage before painting\*.

GLOSS INS. WHITE

**PROPELLER BLADES**

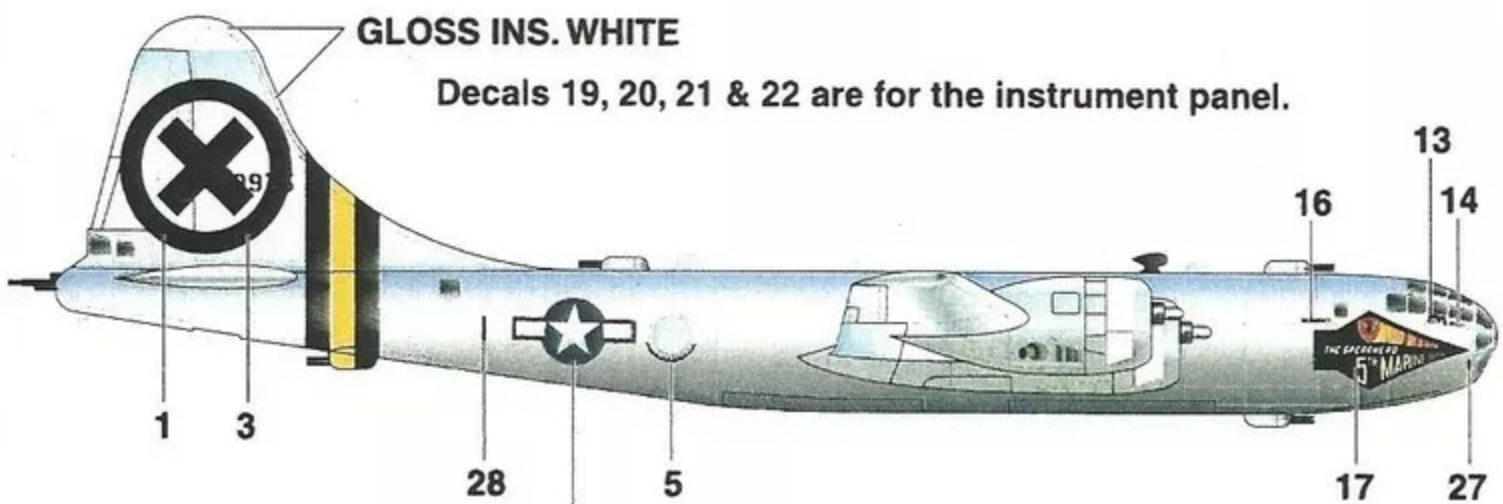
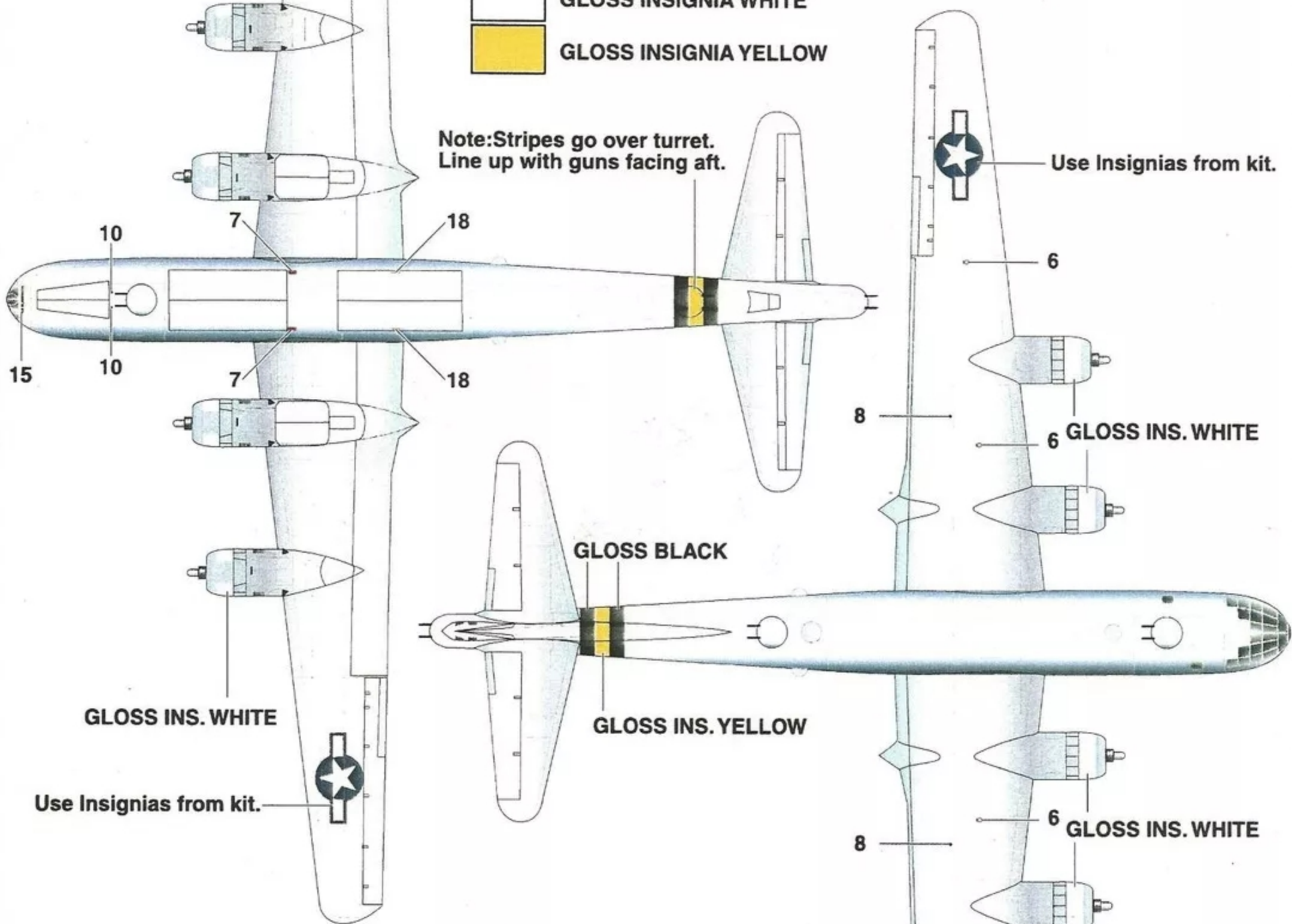
- INS. YELLOW
- FLAT BLACK
- 25
- 26



- INS. WHITE
- NATURAL METAL (Overall)
- GLOSS INSIGNIA WHITE
- GLOSS INSIGNIA YELLOW

Use Insignias from kit.

Note: Stripes go over turret.  
Line up with guns facing aft.



**NOSE GEAR RIGHT SIDE**

9

INS. YELLOW