

## **Warbird Aero Press decals – Review**

### **Anders Bruun**

Member **Scott Germain** has released the following 1/48 air racer decals:

- WAP001 Bob Hoover's Evergreen Mustang
- WAP002 Bob Hoover's Rockwell Mustang
- WAP003 Lyle Shelton's Able Cat F8F-2
- WAP004 Bob Abrams' #21 P-51D Racer
- WAP005 J.D. Reed's Beguine P-51C
- WAP006 Steve Beville's Galloping Ghost P-51D
- WAP007 Earl Ortman's #2 P-51D
- WAP008 SOHIO and Kendall logos

These decals are limited edition, and come with a reference page including photos, aircraft background, conversion information, colour information and what modifications need to be made to the kit for an accurate scale model. They are professionally printed by Fantasy Printshop. All sheets are US \$ 9.00 each including US postage or \$ 10.00 including international postage. See more of the decals and Scott's other products at his website <http://www.warbirdaeropress.com>, which also contains a great historical photo gallery, or write to **Scott Germain/Warbird Aero Press, 4544 E. Wildwood Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85048, USA, e-mail: WarbirdAeroPress@cox.net**

Scott has sent a couple of the sheets for review:

**Sheet No. WAP001 "Bob Hoover's 'Evergreen' P-51D"** depicts the Mustang that was used as a pace plane at the Reno races for several years. The plane is all yellow with a two-tone green nose ring and green "Evergreen" logos and "Bob Hoover" texts. The decal sheet is sharp and well printed (by Fantasy Printshop in UK) and the decal film looks very thin.

As far as I have been able to find out all that is in there is correct, although the registration numbers below the stabilisers look a bit small. The sheet includes the lighter of the two greens needed for the nose trim – the builder will need to paint the darker shade and apply lighter green square decal patches over it. The photos that are printed on instruction sheet show US flags on both sides of the canopy, which are not included on the sheet. However, the race number "47" for the plane in its current version, as owned by John Bagley, is included.

The instruction sheet contains two colour photos and comprehensive conversion and colour notes. For

placement of antennas it refers to some drawings that do not exist, but the placement of most of the antennas is obvious from the photos.

**Sheet No. WAP008 "Sohio and Kendall logos"** includes ten Sohio (Standard Oil of Ohio) logos in two different sizes (9 and 13.5 mm wide) and four Kendall logos in two different sizes (5 and 7 mm diameter). These sponsor decals were often applied to Cleveland era racers, and this sheet will be useful for modelling planes for which no specialised sheets exist. Again they are sharply printed, the Kendall decals are in two parts with the hand and texts as a separate decal to be put on top of the red disc.

I don't want to sound too certain and critical about these things, since trademarks and logos change and I might not have seen all variants that existed, but I am not completely pleased with either of these logos. The "Kendall" text looks too skinny and the hand looks too black. The outline of the Sohio logo should, as far as I have seen in colour photos, not be red but light/medium blue, a strange greyish or purplish colour if old photos can be believed.

#### **Conclusion**

Scott is to be highly praised for launching this series of decals – there have been a couple of false starts by other manufacturers, but these decals are not vapourware! I guess many modellers will like the policy of choosing planes that are not so heavily modified, since especially in 1/48 modifications like canopies, radiator scoops and wing fillets require quite a lot of work.

The Hoover decals are sharp and well-printed, and as far as I can tell well-researched. I am a terrible nitpicker when it comes to details, but if you are willing to accept the question marks around the sponsor decals they will be useful for dozens of potential projects. Buy his stuff – it is the only way of making sure that there will be more!

**A big thanks to Scott Germain for the review samples!**