

## *The first Red Pegasus Decals releases – A quick look*

### *Anders Bruun*

**Keith Davidson** has sent a set of his own first releases – as you know he also sells the remaining stock of the **Warbird Aero Press** decals. I have not had time to take a close look, but here are the first impressions:

**1/72 Bob Hoover "Rockwell" P-51D** (sheet No. RPD72002)

This is a simple one-colour sheet that provides all the markings for the famous air show pilot's plane in the scheme carried around 1985. Everything is there as far as I can tell, but you will need some extra photos to be able to get all the antennas in the right place. The instructions refer to some drawings, which are not included. The corresponding 1/48 WAP sheet (WAP002) is also available.

**1/72 Jackie Cochran's "Beguine" P-51C** (sheet No. RPD72005)

These decals give markings for both the (never raced) 1948 version and the infamous 1949 version. Again everything is there and looks right, but you will need some extra photos – or you will have to wait until I do the final ultimate Beguine drawings, which I have promised to do for ten years or so now... The yellow colour looks very strong and should hopefully cover the dark green basic colour well. The instructions give some conversion notes, but I guess the measurements are for 1/48 scale. No conversion wing pods are available in this scale.

**1/72 Jackie Cochran's "Beguine" P-51C** (sheet No. RPD48005)

These decals are of course the same as the previous sheet, but unfortunately the yellow ink is printed a little outside the white base on the race numbers and wing registrations. I'm not sure how obvious this will be over the dark green basic colour – perhaps the yellow is so transparent it doesn't show. Conversion radiator pods (as reviewed in BT#29) are separately available.

**1/72 Beville/Raymond "Gallop Ghost" P-51D** (sheet No. RPD72006)

Again a complete, nicely done set for this stock-airframe Mustang, the most consistent finisher of the post-WW2 Cleveland races. Since the markings changed slightly during the plane's four-year career you will need additional photos – if accurately dated ones can be found, which is always a problem. Can somebody volunteer to sort this out? The corresponding 1/48 WAP sheet (WAP006) is also available, but the 1/72 version is considerably improved.

**1/72 Earl Ortman's "Race 2" P-51D** (sheet No. RPD72007)

This plane was the first clipped-wing Mustang, but otherwise it was a stock, rather unspectacular natural metal plane. Again everything is here and adequate, but the font of the rudder registration is perhaps a bit on the slim side, as is the blue outline on the Soho logos. The corresponding 1/48 WAP sheet (WAP007) is also available, but the 1/72 version is considerably improved.

**1/72 and 1/48 SOHIO and Kendall logos** (sheets No. RPD72008 and RPD48008)

These logos were carried by almost all 1946-1949 racers, so they are of great use for everybody who builds models from that era. The black-outlined Kendall logos look very good, even though there were some variations and I don't believe all had those outlines. There were obviously variations of Soho logos too, some with thinner and some with wider blue outline. The medium size logos look best to me. The others, while still adequate and better than any other offerings I have seen are perhaps a little out of proportion.

**1/48 Tom Call's "JOE" FG-1D #90** (sheet No. RPD48009)

Good, complete decals for the clean-looking Bendix Trophy also-ran. After much debating Keith chose black markings with dark blue speed lines - different references give different colours, but the chosen colours are the favoured among historians.

**1/48 Tonopah Queen - Tom's Cat** (sheet No. RPD48010)

This F8F was another also-ran (from 1964 to 1966), with a simple civilian paint scheme. The instructions contain guidance to the several possible variations, and include all the white trim.

**1/48 Tony LeVier's "Fox of the Skyways" P-38L** (sheet No. 48011)

The 1946 Thompson runner-up had a simple red paint scheme, but watch out for detail differences between the 1946 and 1947 configurations. Examples are the white-wall tires used in 1946 (when the landing gear was painted silver) and the clipped propeller tips in 1947. I have also seen photos of the plane in 1946 configuration with un-clipped stabiliser tips. The little scoops on the outsides of the booms should be removed. It is difficult to find good photos of the tops of the tail booms where the turbos were removed. If you know of good photos I would be pleased to know. I would be very pleased to print any conclusions in BT, I don't think the different configurations of this plane has been accurately recorded anywhere..

#### *Summary*

Most of these decals are for relatively easy conversions and paint schemes that still give attractive results. All the decals reviewed here are screen printed with separate backing film. The finish is glossy and they look very thin and sharp. In general the instructions look nice and include a couple of photos, in some cases in colour. However, in almost all cases you will need some extra references in order to place all decals correctly or get all details right, since the instructions don't contain any drawings.

Keith's idea was that the review decals could be given away as an incentive to get more articles for BTs. This is

a great idea, so from now on until the stock runs out every article in BT will be rewarded with a decal sheet of your choice!

If you want to order the decals you will find Keith's contact data under the "New Products".

***Thanks to Keith Davidson for the review examples!***