

B-17G 'Thunderbird'

Colour notes

Thunderbird was in bare-metal when she arrived at the 303rd and was hastily camouflaged in olive-drab and neutral gray, without the use of a primer. Consequently at the end of her career she was heavily weathered and had an unpainted inner port engine cowlings.

2 Mission markings

It's not known for sure how many mission markings were finally recorded on 'Thunderbird's' fuselage. 303rd records say she flew 113 credited missions, but the actual total was 112. The minimum number shown would be 70 when the red tail triangle was added in the summer of 1944.

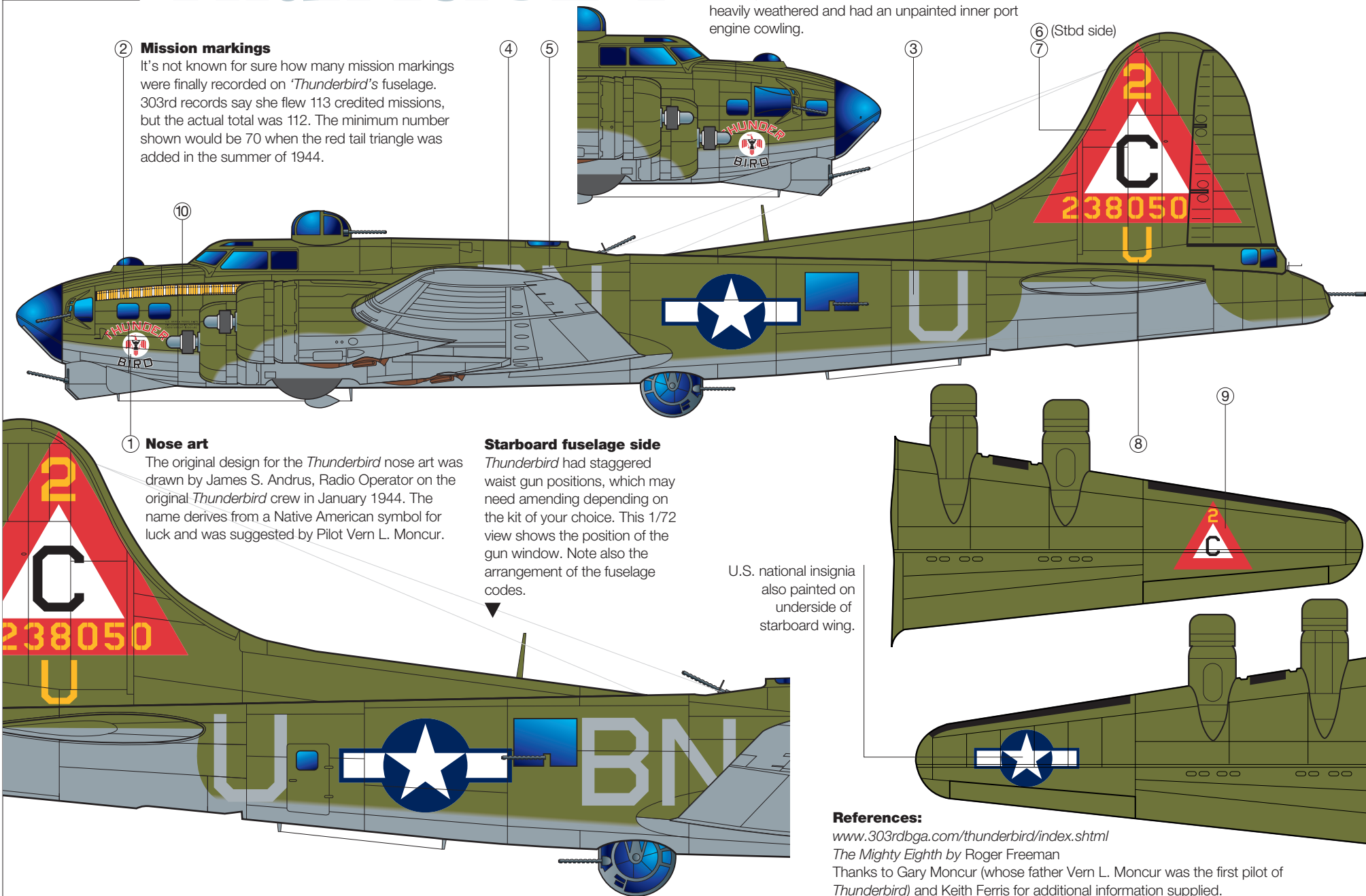
1 Nose art

The original design for the *Thunderbird* nose art was drawn by James S. Andrus, Radio Operator on the original *Thunderbird* crew in January 1944. The name derives from a Native American symbol for luck and was suggested by Pilot Vern L. Moncur.

Starboard fuselage side

Thunderbird had staggered waist gun positions, which may need amending depending on the kit of your choice. This 1/72 view shows the position of the gun window. Note also the arrangement of the fuselage codes.

U.S. national insignia also painted on underside of starboard wing.



References:

www.303rdbgc.com/thunderbird/index.shtml

The Mighty Eighth by Roger Freeman

Thanks to Gary Moncur (whose father Vern L. Moncur was the first pilot of *Thunderbird*) and Keith Ferris for additional information supplied.