DAMBUSTER GRAND SLAM BOMBER LANCASTER BILL LANCASTER BILL 22000 ID. BOMB





Story by Chris Ellis

LANCASTER B1 (SPECIAL) and 'DAMBUSTER' LANCASTER

While the Lancaster in its standard B.1/B.III form won justified fame for its immense contribution to Britain's bomber offensive against Germany in the 1942/45 period, the aircraft earned an extra place in aviation history for its dramatic use in a number of hazardous special operations for which it required considerable modification. And the crews who flew the modified Lancasters on the special missions required, in turn, a special brand of purpose and efficiency.

courage and efficiency. The selection of the Lancaster bomber for the special missions was conditioned by the fact that it was the only bomber in service in 1942-43 which had a big enough bomb-bay and big enough lifting capability to carry the heavy bombs that were being developed at the time in order to boost the overall bombing effort against Germany. The rugged character of the Lancaster, its viceless flying performance and tough airframe all helped

the machine to be successful in its new "special" role. While there was already a massive and growing bombing offensive against the industrial Rhur, heartland of Germany's war output, using conventional high explosive and fire bombs, with nightly raids (weather permitting) and a build-up to the vast 'thousand bomber raids', the British Air Staff was looking for even, more formidable ways of raining destruction upon German industry. The man who came up with the most effective answer to the problem was to become a legend in his own lifetime - Dr. Barnes Wallis, a designer who worked for the Vickers Aircraft Company. Barnes Wallis already had a distinguished career behind him when World War II started; he had designed the famous R.100 Airship in the 1920s, and in the early part of World War II he was designing the Vickers Warwick, the Wellington's intended successor (though in the event this aircraft saw little service, being eclipsed by four-engined bomber types like the Lancaster.)

Due to his life-long connection with aircraft design, Barnes Wallis knew of the limitations of the bombs available to the Royal Air Force in the early part of Worl War II. They were mostly small, for small bombs best suited the RAF's pre-war tactical requirments, and due to Defence Budget restrictions of the inter-war years, little work had been done on improving the explosive content of the bombs. Barnes Wallis realised from the early days of the war that existing small bombs could not be dropped in sufficient quantities on German industrial plants - which were dispersed all over Germany - to make a decisive effect on war production. What he did appreciate, however, was that if the power sources could be destroyed then the factories could not function. The western part of Germany, and the industrial Ruhr Valley in particular, was very heavily dependent on hydro-electricity for power, and Barnes Wallis considered that if the dams which enabled the water to be stored could be breached, then large areas of the country would be deprived of power, with a material effect on war output. In addition to providing a water source for power generation, some of the dams also controlled water levels in canals and rivers where there was much barge traffic, and any breaching of these dams would have many side effects, too, such as flooding large areas of land, ruining farmland, towns and factories, and disrupting public utilities. Major dams were the Moehne, Sorpe and Eder, but others included the Ennepe, Schwelme and Lister. These dams were huge - the Moehne, for instance was 112 ft. wide at the bottom, 25 ft. wide at the top and 130 ft. high, All the dams were either of concrete or had concrete cores and the impact or pressure needed to de-stroy them would be enormous.

Barnes Wallis worked out that the best way to destroy huge concrete structures was by pressure waves from what he called an 'earthquake bomb' designed to explode deep in the water alongside the structure, since a conventional bomb would simply bounce off the dam and the explosion on the concrete would have a negligible effect. At the time Wallis worked out his theory, in 1940, there was no bomber in RAF service capable of carrying a bomb of the weight which Barnes Wallis thought necessary to do the job. And Britain was in a grave position, more concerned with fighter defence against the Luftwaffe rather than theoretical ways of causing the destruction of remote dams deep in Germany. So, progress in interesting the Air Ministry in the idea

was slow. Meanwhile. Barnes Wallis pressed on with experiments, using models and a ship testing tank to prove that his theories would work. In early 1942 the idea had been nearly perfected and Wallis was asked to make some half-size prototypes of his new 'earthquake bombs' and to convert a Wellington bomber to carry and deliver them.

The problem with the bomb was quite complex. To ensure accurancey - it had to be delivered with great precision - the bomb had to be dropped very low. It then had to come to rest alongside the dam so that the immense pressure wave set up as the bomb exploded under water would buckle the reinforced concrete of the dam. Wallis worked out that the bomb would need to hit the water spinning on its axis so that it would skim or bounce over the water surface until it came up to the dam wall and sank. The principle was not unlike the effect which can be achieved by 'skimming' a light pebble or clam shell over the water at the seaside, an age-old childhood amusement. To spin the bomb it was first proposed to suspend the weapon on supports below the aircraft and get it rotating by chain drive from a Ford V-8 automobile engine. This would have meant an unacceptable increase in payload for the aircraft however, and in the end it was discovered that power could be taken from the aircraft's hydraulic system, in particular since bomb doors were not needed and the mid-upper turret had to be removed to reduce the aircraft's weight. This freed some of the aircraft's hydraulic requirments; in its finalised form there was belt drive to the bomb which spun it at \$00 revolutions per minute prior to release.

Tests by delivering the bomb by Wellington bomber were carried out at Chesil Beach on the English South Coast, where a huge natural bank of shingle made a good simulated target with a water approach. All was successful by the middle of December, 1942, and in February 1943, after some last minute indecision. Wallis was asked to make some full-size bombs for the Lancaster to carry.

Air Marshall Sir Arthur Harris, C-in-C of RAF Bomber Command.

Air Marshall Sir Arthur Harris, C-in-C of RAF Bomber Command, was less keen on the idea than some, since he was busy building up his conventional bomber force for the continuing offensive. However, he agreed to the involvement provided that no existing Squadron was taken out of service to train for the special mission. Thus was born an entirely new Squadron, No. 617, in March, 1943. At the same time the whole operation to breach the dams was given the code name "Downwood" and Roy Chadwick, the Lancaster's Designer, took charge of the work involved in converting a batch of Lancasters to carry the special 7 ft. circumfence bombs, which were of cylindrical shape like a garden roller. The bomb doors were removed and replaced by fairings, pylons were fitted to hold the bomb, the hydraulic system was modified, the mid-upper turret removed and the aperture panelled in, the bomb-aimer's clear nose fairing was slightly changed, and a Vickers K gun was fitted to fire from a ball-mount in the floor of the aircraft. The prototype aircraft was ED765/G ("G" indicating "Guard" while on the ground due to the special secret equipment fitted). All the work was carried out with the strictest secrecy while the crews of 617 Squadron started training for their low level mission on standard Lancasters.

Chosen to command 617 Sqn. was Wing Commander Guy Gibson, DSO and Bar, DFC, already a 'veteran' of great experience at the age of 25. He had 173 missions completed and was a much respected pilot. The raid was scheduled for May, which was the time the water level at the dams would be at its maximum after winter rain and snow, so the training was to proceed with all despatch. Photo reconnaissance of the dams was carried out by Mosquito Aircraft, and training for the run-in was done over reservoirs in England which had dams of similar size and aspect. The task was formidable. The dams were defended quite heavily with AA guns, and the Lancasters would have to make a long, low run-in across a great expanse of water, maintaining a height of only 60 ft. at a speed of 220 mph. to ensure accuracy at the moment of release of the bomb, or 'mine', as it had been designated by this time. No. 617 Squadron was based at the famous RAF field at Scampton, Lincolnshire, and Gibson chose his own Lancaster crews from the best in Bomber Command, several from his old Squadron.

The problem of height keeping proved the most difficult to

overcome, but it was finally achieved by fitting spotlights under the nose and tail of the aircraft so they converged to form a figure '8' on the water surface when the machine was at the correct height.

The raid was fixed for the night of May 16th, 1943, the targets for the Main Force being the Moehne and Eder Dams, with Sorpe Dam as the next target for any aircraft which did not expend its mines on the first two targets.

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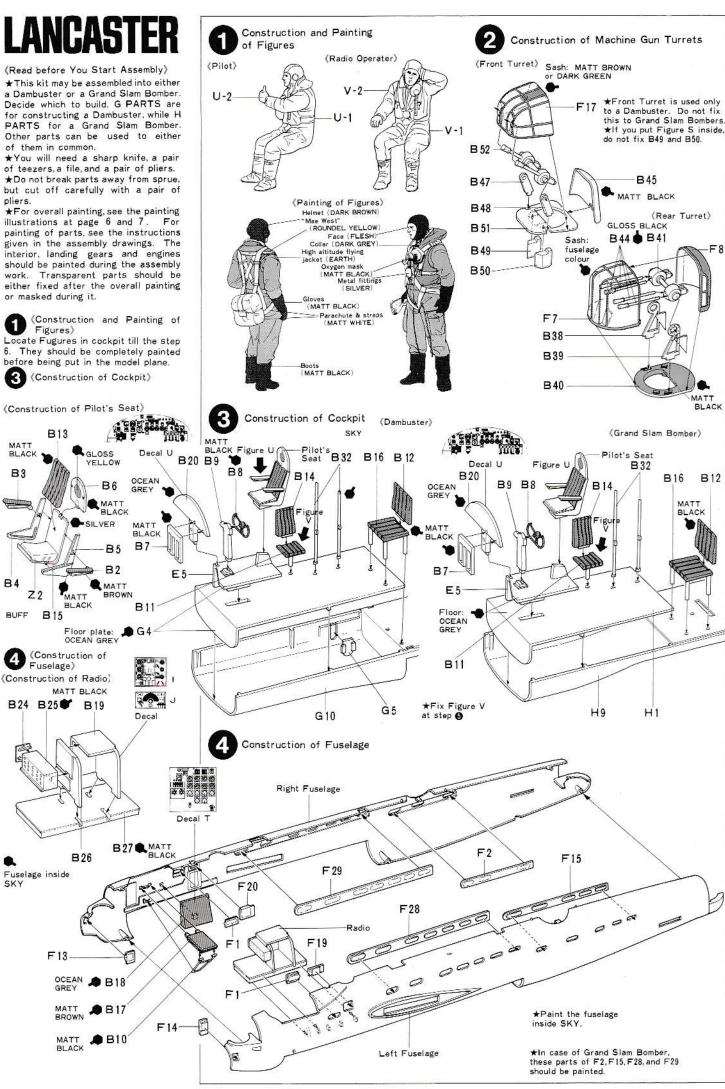
There was one wave of nine aircraft led by Gibson and two others of five each. Gibson's wave formed the main spearhead of the attack, while the first wave of five aircraft was sent straight to the Sorpe Dam and the third wave attacked the Ennepe and Lister Dams, though with only limited success. The results of this epic raid are well-known. It was, perhaps the most famous bombing raid of World War II. The Moehne and Eder Dams were breached, and floods extended over 40 miles distant. Several books and a well-known film, "The Dam Busters", record the story in detail. Guy Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his leadership, and many other crewmen were decorated, though 56 of the gallant 133 men who made up the crews for the raid were missing, in short-down aircraft. From this day on, No. 617 Sqn. has been known as "The Dam Busters".

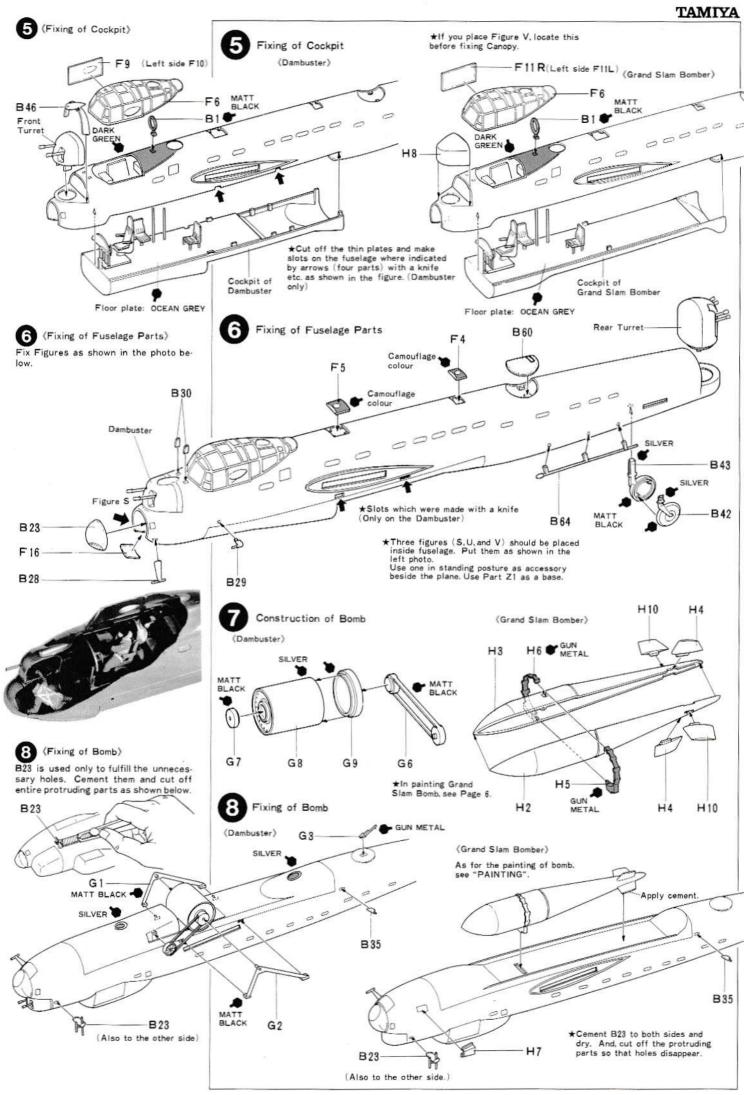
Subsequently, 617 Sqn, found itself cast for a special role, taking on the destruction of the toughest and most important targets. In the meantime, Barnes Wallis was working on a new 'earth-quake bomb' designed for use on land, and weighing ten tons, plus a scaled-down 12,000 pound version to meet official reservations about the ability of even a Lancaster to deliver the huge 10 ton (22,000 pound) bomb. The idea of the 'earthquake bomb' was for it to penetrate deep into the earth and then detonate, rather than detonate on impact like a conventional H.E. bomb. The 12,000 pound bomb, known as the 'Tallboy', was the first ready. On trials it penetrated 90 feet into the ground before detonating with its 'eathquake' effect, and craters 80 ft. deep and 100 ft. in diameter were recorded. Led by another famous pilot, Wing Commander Leonard Cheshire VC. No. 617 Sqn. carried out some more spectacular raids, including the destruction of the harbour at Le Havre and German "V" weapon sites in France in 1944. Later, they helped sink the mighty Battleship 'Tirpitz'.

The success of the 12,000 pound 'Tallboy' led to revived interest in the 22,000 pound version, which was given the name 'Grand Slam'. It was first delivered in February, 1945 and first used in action a month later in a tremendous raid on the huge Bielefeld railway viaduct. The 'Grand Slam' was an immense bomb, 35 ft. 5 ins. long, 3 ft. 10 ins. in diameter, and with a tail section alone 13½ft. long. It had between 6 and 7 tons of explosive and pierced about 100 ft. into the ground before detonating with a vast 'earthquake' effect.

On March 14th, 1945 the 'Grand Slam' proved its worth when the Bielefeld Viaduct collapsed. On March 19th the Arnsberg Bridge, near the Moehne Dam, was similarly destroyed, then the Arbegan Bridge, near Bremen. By the time the War ended in May, 1945, 617 Sqn. had dropped 41 'Grand Slam' bombs on German targets. To carry such a vast, heavy load as the 'Grand Slam' the Lancaster had to be specially modified and lightened, and in this form it was designated the Lancaster MK 1 (Special). Some 33 aircraft were converted, PB592, PB995-998, and PD112-139, and the changes included removal of the nose and mid-upper turrets, removal of other unnecessary equipment, and cutting away of the bomb bay to allow the huge bomb to fit in the belly of the aircraft. The bomb bay doors were deleted in this version.

Most Lancaster MK 1 (Special) had an empty weight of 35,457 pounds and a loaded weight of 72,000 pounds, and so could carry its own weight in bombs and fuel. It had a range of 1,550 miles at 200 m.p.h, with a ceiling of 20,000 ft. It carried 1,675 gallons of fuel, a necessary reduction in order for it to carry the huge 'Grand Slam' bomb. The later more powerful Rolls-Royce Merlin 24 engines were fitted in place of the Merlin 20 or 22 units found on earlier production aircraft. The 'Dambuster' Lancasters used in the 1943 raids were actually MK Ills with Packard-built Merlin engines.





Construction of Main Wings

These are large surfaces which must be cemented together. Firmly cement wing parts and hold them together for some time with adhesive tape etc.

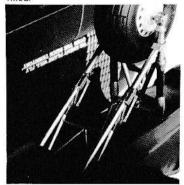
ത (Construction of Landing Gears)

Two Landing Gears, Right and Left, are to be constructed. Since their parts are thin and easy to break, they should be assembled very carefully. The Landing Gears are important components which support the plane. Make sure they are firmly fixed by using sufficient cement. Main wheels are intended to rotate. A8 and A18 should

just be put in.

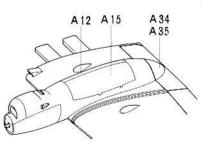
(Fixing of Landing Gears and Engine Cowlings)

Properly cement Landing Gears to already constructed Main Wings. If your model plane is to be in a flying attitude, Landing Gears should not be fixed.





★Fix each Engine Cowling with the Landing Gear contained in it. If you make the flying state model, construct these parts as shown below.



(Construction of Engines)

The kit contains only two Engines. They may be fixed to either Right or Left Wing.

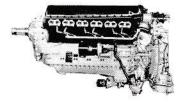
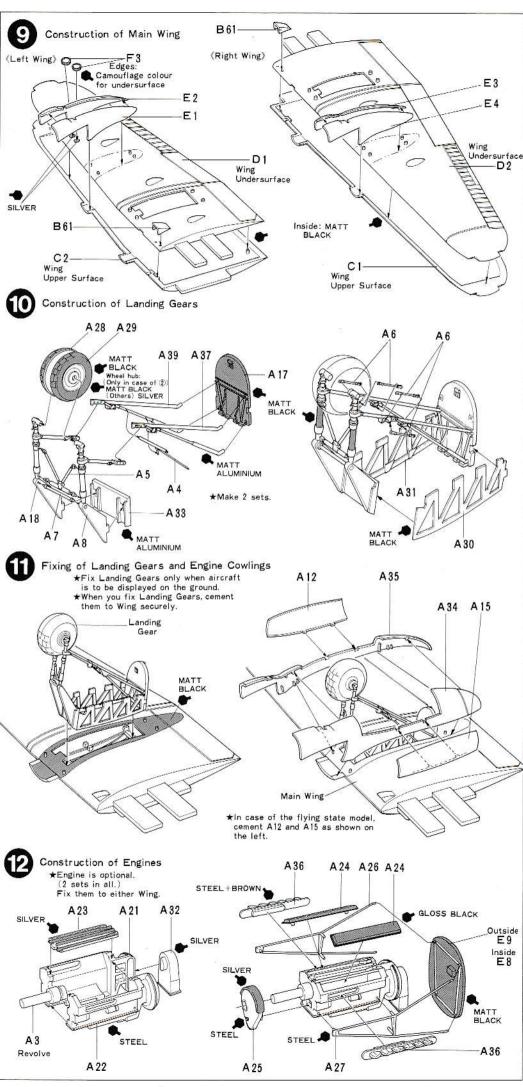


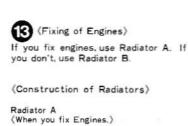
Photo of actual Rolls-Royce Merlin engine

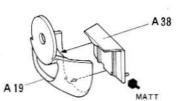


★Fix B22 and F12 to every Engine

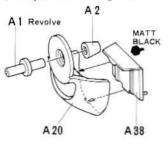
★In fixing Radiator, use A in case of mounting Engines, while use B in case of not mounting Engines.

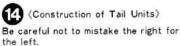
Cowling.

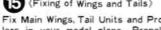




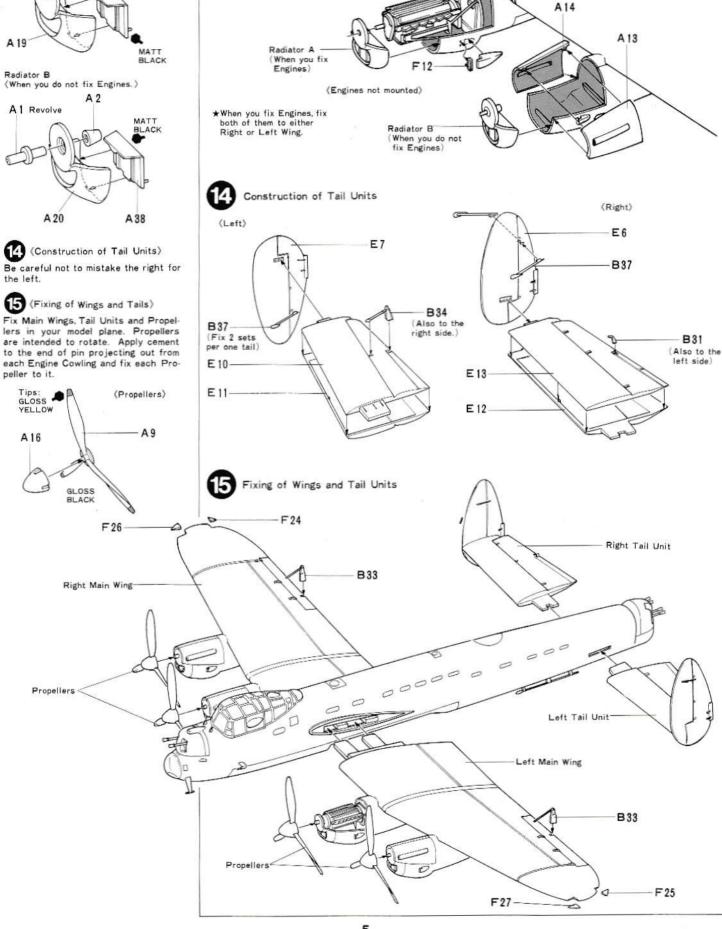
Radiator B (When you do not fix Engines.)







each Engine Cowling and fix each Propeller to it.



Fixing of Engines

A11-

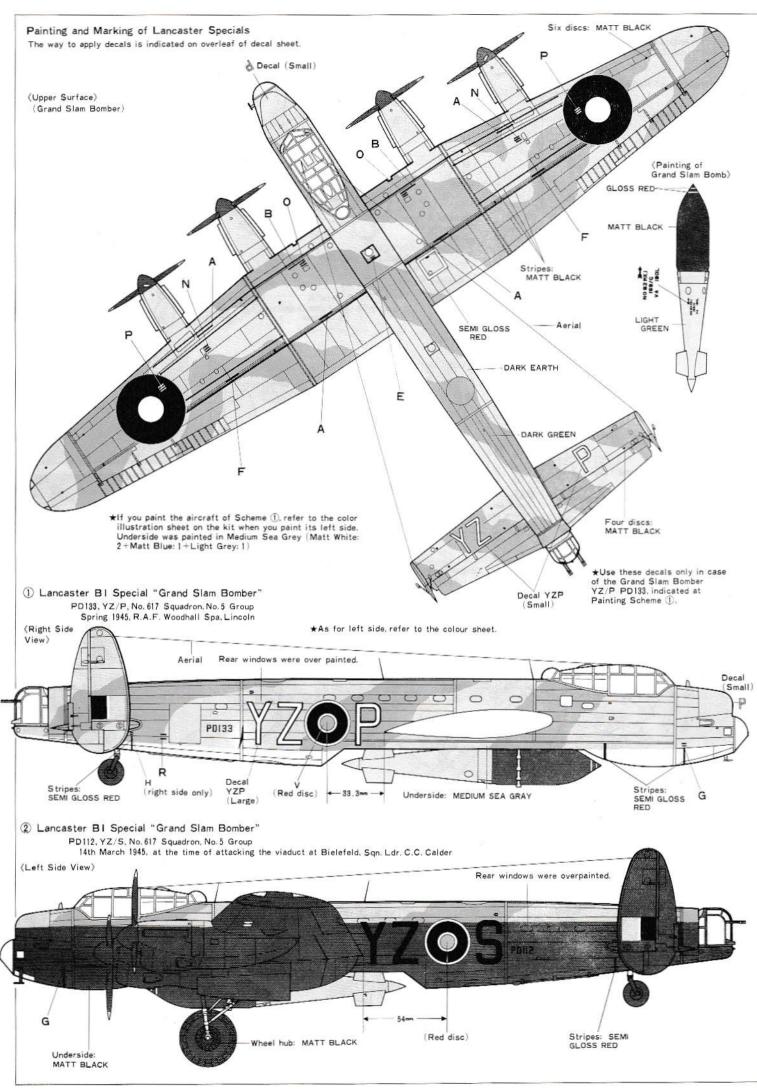
A10

F12

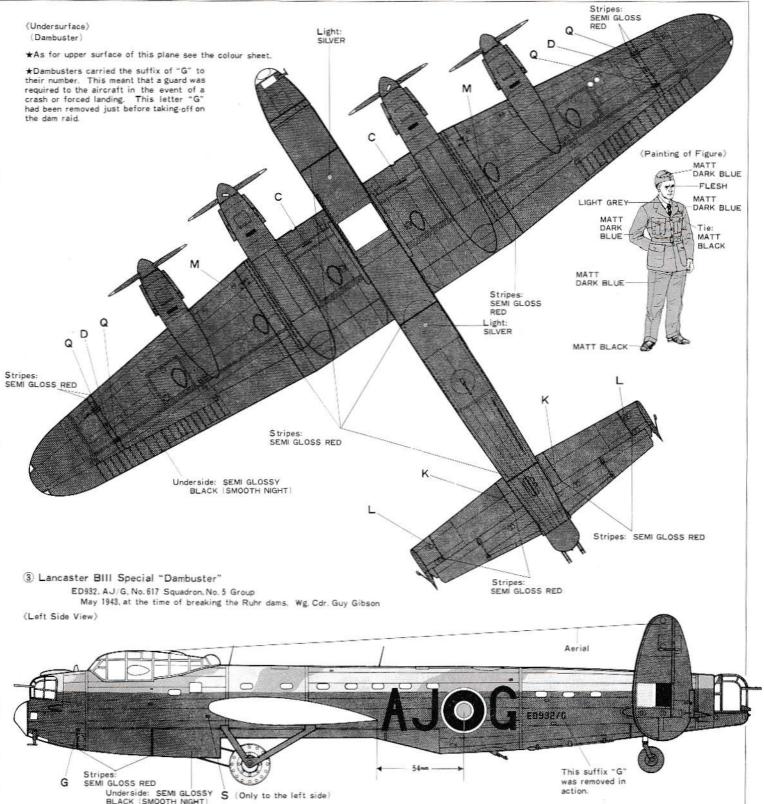
(Engines mounted)

Cover inside: MATT BLACK

B22







(About Painting)

It is recommended to use a flat paint brush 10-20mm wide for painting large surfaces and a slender one for painting small parts and surfaces. In spray painting where paint is sprayed on the model plane by means of a device such as spray gun, those parts to which you do not intend to apply paint should be covered during the work with masking tape or the like. In either case, it is essential that you do the work in a well ventilated area, away from naked flame. If the model plane is stained with oil, sweat, etc., paint will not spread well. Remove such marks from the model plane with tepid water containing neutral cleaning agent and rinse the cleaning agent away Then, completely remove moisture from the model plane and start painting in a place free from dust. Be sure to use paint designed for use with plastic models. Adjust the thickness of paint with solvent. After painting, remove paint from the brushes by washing them in solvent

(Painting of Lancaster)

(Basic Painting)

From July, 1942 onward, bombers were painted in two

different ways according to whether they were intended for use in night bombing or day bombing. The Lancaster was painted as a night bomber. The top of the fuselage, main wings and tail planes were camouflaged with dark green and dark earth. The other parts and the tail fins were painted in smooth night (half-glossy) black. The "code letter" representing the Unit to which the bomber belonged and the serial number were written usually in dull red on the sides of the fuselage.

★The code letters.serial numbers.and pilots' names of 19 Dambusters are listed below. Use this table as your information in applying marking.

FIRST Wave	3	
ED932	AJ/G	Wg. Cdr. Guy Gibson
★ED925	AJ/M	Flt. Lt. J. V. Hopgood
ED909	AJ/P	Flt. Lt. H. B. Martin
★ED887	AJ/A	Sqn, L.dr. H. M. Young
★ED864	AJ/B	Fit. Lt. W. Astell
ED906	AJ/J	Flt. Lt. D. J. H. Maltby
★ED937	AJ/Z	Sqn. Ldr. H. E. Maudsley
ED912	AJ/N	Plt. Off. L. G. Knight
ED929	AJ/L	Flt. Lt. D. J. Shannon

Second Wa	ave	
ED 923	AJ/T	FIt. Lt. J. C. McCarthy
★ED934	AJ/K	Sgt. V. A. Byers
★ ED927	AJ/E	Flt. Lt. R. N. G. Barlow
☆ED936	AJ/H	Plt. Off. G. Rice
☆ED921	AJ/W	Flt. Lt. K. L. Munro
Third Wav	е	
ED886	AJ/O	Flt. Sgt. W. C. Townsend
ED918	AJ/F	Flt. Sgt. K. W. Brown
ED924	AJ/Y	Fit. Sgt. L. T. Anderson

AJ/C

AJ/S

★ED910

★ED865

Among all 19 planes, ones marked "\pm" did not return, and ones marked "\pm" gave up mission and returned, and ones without any mark accomplished mission and returned.

Plt. Off. W. H. T. Ottley

Plt. Off. L. J. Burpee

A PARTS (Two same part-sheets are included)

- 1. Propeller Shaft A
 3. Propeller Shaft B
 5. Lending Gear Support B
 6. Landing Gear Support B
 6. Landing Gear Support B
 6. Landing Gear Support A
 7. Landing Gear Support B
 8. Landing Gear Strut A
 9. Propellers
 10. Inside Engine Cover A
 11. Inside Engine Cover A
 12. Landing Gear Cover (Left)
 13. Outside Engine Cover A
 14. Outside Engine Cover B
 15. Landing Gear Cover (Right) 16. Propeller Spinners
 17. Landing Gear Fixing Plate A
 18. Landing Gear Strut B
 19. Engine Top A
 19. Engine Top A
 19. Engine Top A
 21. Engine A
 22. Engine B
 23. Engine C
 24. Engine B
 24. Engine Rack (Right)
 25. Engine B
 26. Engine Rack (Right)
 30. Frame (Left)
 31. Frame (Right)
 32. Coolant Radiator
 33. Landing Gear Strut B
 34. Inside Engine Cowling B
 35. Landing Gear Strut F
 39. Landing Gear Strut F
 39. PARTS Propeller Shaft A Propeller Shaft B 2 . Propeller Shaft Stopper 4 Landing Gear Support

B PARTS

- 1 D.F.Loop 3. Arm Rest (Right) 5. Pilot's Seat (Left) 7. Foot Pedal 9. Control Stick 2 . Arm Rest (Left)
 4 . Pilot's Seat (Right)
 6 . Bullet Proof Plate
 8 . Steering Wheel
 10 . Seat Support
 12 . Radio Operator's Seat B
 14 . Navigator's Seat B
 16 . Radio Operator's Seat A

- 16. Radio Operator's Seat A
 nel 19. Radio A
 21. Fuselage Right Air Intake
 22. Antennas
 23. Radio C
 27. Table
 29. Pitot Tube B
 31. Balance Weights
 33. Arms A
 37. Balance Weight B
 39. Rear MG Mount (Left)
 41. MG Base
 43. Tail Wheel (Right)
 45. Front Turret Bulkhead
 47. Front MG Mount (Right)
- 7. Foot Pedal 8.
 9. Control Stick 10.
 11. Navigator's Seat A 12.
 13. Pilot's Seat Pad 14.
 15. Pilot's Seat 16.
 17. 2nd Pilot's Seat 18. Fuselage Instrument Panel 20. Main Instrument Panel 20. Main Instrument Panel 21.
 22. Carburetter Air Intakes 23.
 24. Radio B 27.
 25. Radio D 27.
 28. Pitot Tube A 29.
 39. Window Sprays 31.
 32. Support 33.
 32. Support 33.
 34. Arms B 35.
 36. Flare Bomb Discharger B 37.
 38. Resr MG Mount (Right) 39.
 44. 7.7mm MG Barrels 45.
 45. Front Turret Holder 44.
 47. 7. Mm MG Barrels 45.
 48. Front MG Mount (Lett) 49. Ammunition Magazine (Right) 49.
- 48. Front MG Mount (Left)
 49. Ammunition Magazine (Right)
 50. Ammunition Magazine (Left)
 51. Front MG Floor Plate
 51. Unnecessary
 55. Unnecessary
 55. Unnecessary
 57. Unnecessary
 58. Unnecessary
 59. Unnecessary
 60. Rear Turret Cover
 61. Wing Undersurface Air Inlet
 62. Unnecessary
 64. Pole Aerial
 65. Unnecessary
 66. Rear Turret Cover
 66. Unnecessary
 67. Unnecessary
 68. Unnecessary
 68. Unnecessary
 69. Unnecessary
 69. Unnecessary
 69. Unnecessary

E PARTS

Left Wing Outside Engine Cowling A Left Wing Outside Engine Cowling B Right Wing Outside Engine Cowling A Right Wing Outside Engine Cowling B Cockpit Floor 6. Right Tail Fin Left Tail Fin

7. Left Tail Fin 8. Inside Engine Fixing Plate 9. Outside Engine Fixing Plate 10. Left Stabilizer Undersurface 11. Right Stabilizer Upper Surface 12. Right Stabilizer Undersurface 13. Left Stabilizer Upper Surface

F PARTS (Transparent)

F PARTS (Transparent)

1. Fuselage Windows A 2. Fuselage Windows B 3. Landing Lights 4. Emergency Exit (Rear) 5. Emergency Exit (Front) 6. Cockpit Canopy 7. Rear Turret Canopy A 8. Rear Turret Canopy B 9. Cockpit Canopy Side Window A (Right) 10. Cockpit Canopy Side Window A (Left) 11-L Cockpit Canopy Side Window B (Right) 11-R Cockpit Canopy Side Window B (Right) 11-R Cockpit Canopy Side Window B (Left) 12. Carburetter Air Intake Ice Guard 13. Fuselage Window C (Right) 14. Fuselage Window C (Left) 19. Fuselage Window C (Left) 19. Fuselage Window E (Left) 19. Fuselage Window E (Left) 19. Fuselage Window E (Right) 19. Fuselage Window E (Right) 20. Fuselage Window E (Right) 21. Unnecessary 22. Unnecessary 23. Fore Canopy 24. Right Wing Nav. Light (Rear) 25. Left Wing Nav. Light (Rear) 25. Left Wing Nav. Light (Rear) 28. Fuselage Window F (Left) 29. Fuselage Window F (Left) 29. Fuselage Window F (Left) 29. Fuselage Window F (Right) G PARTS (Dambuster)

G PARTS (Dambuster)

| 1.86mb Rack (Left) | 2.86mb Rack (Right) | 3.Fuselage Underside MG | 4.Floor Plate | 5.8elt Fixing Parts | 7.Center Spacer | 8.0am Busting Bomb Body | 9.86mb Lid | 10.86mb Stowage Cover |

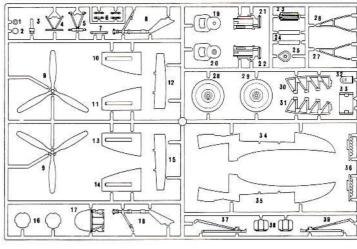
H PARTS (Grand Slam Bomber)

2 . Grand Slam Bomb A 4 . Tail Fins of Bomb A 6 . Bomb Fixing Rack B 8 . Turret Cover 10 . Tail Fins of Bomb B .Floor Plate .Grand Slam Bomb B Bomb Fixing Rack A Shutter 9 . Bomb Stowage Cover



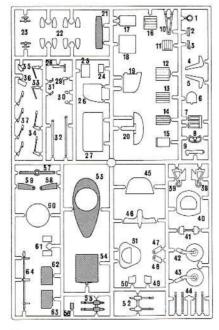
PARTS

(Two sheets are included.

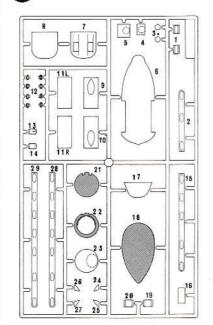


PARTS

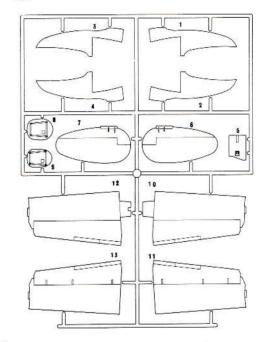




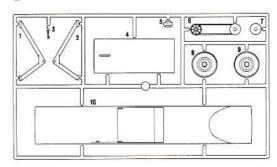




PARTS **PARTS** 1. Wing (Right Upper Surface) 1. Wing (Left Undersurface) 2. Wing (Left Upper Surface) 2. Wing (Right Undersurface)



PARTS (Dambuster)



PARTS (Grand Slam Bomber)

