

4th F.G. P-47 MARKINGS



Editor's note: Since January 1968 the author has participated in two reunions and a veteran's association of the men who had served in the Fourth Fighter Group during WWII. Garry L. Fry has thus become known as, and by appointment is, the 4th F.G. Association's historian. He has endeavored to locate as much data and photographs as possible with the members of the Association who had them tucked away in forgotten spots for almost twenty-five years, and the best of the photographs are combined in a new picture history of the Group entitled **DEBDEN EAGLES, the 4th F.G. in WWII** published by Walker-Smith.*

The following article supplies for the A.A.H.S. Members the unknown airplane serial numbers, codes, pilot names, and markings data for the AAF's top-scoring unit in usable form which was not possible to include in the book. Since the Squadron code is indicative of the pilots as persons, instead of just numbers, the author's list has been arranged by squadron order, thus more meaningful research for the missing data may be undertaken.

All photos courtesy of the author.

4TH FIGHTER GROUP P-47 MARKINGS

All P-47s assigned to the unit were painted in AAF Olive Drab on the topsides and AAF Neutral Grey on the undersides, except for War-Weary P-47s assigned after VE-Day to convert pilots for P-47 operations in the Pacific theater. Several of these were bare metal a/c. All their P-47s except the post VE-Day airplanes carried the white E.T.O. recognition bands on their nose and tail surfaces. The post-war operational P-47s had a full red cowl, no ETO bands, and usually a red-white-blue rudder (equal portions from the top, red first). On assignment to 334FS, about January 1943, the Jugs had the national insignia, a blue circle containing a white star with a yellow border on the fuselage circles. White rectangles and a red border were added to the U.S. insignia on Aug. 1, 1943 and was usually not removed until the airplane left the Group in February 1944. p-47's acquired after September 1943 usually had the new blue-bordered U.S. star and bars. All photos examined

show the large-size "bomber" stars on the under-surfaces of the wings.

New squadron code letters, QP, WD, and VF, were applied on 3 April 1943 in white. At least one 334FS airplane was photographed with all three letters forward of the star in the Fall of 1943.

After the changeover to P-47's had been completed and pilots were regularly assigned to airplanes, some very artistic noseart flowered. The 335th had fewer examples. SSgt Don Allen of 334th and Sgt Hutton of 336th rendered the majority of the emblems in the Group. Some of the code letters in the 334th were outlined in red during the Fall of 1943. Most P-47's had the airplane letter or the last two serial digits on the lower cowl lip for ground identification by pilots and crewchiefs. Other well-decorated portions were the inboard wheel covers, which sported every imaginable design from the Ying Yan symbol to checkerboards. Lastly, the post VE-Day OTU P-47's had their code letters added to the left wing undersurface. A.A.H.S. Members are invited to submit data similar to the above for a later supplement to this listing. Address Garry L. Fry, 174 Pauline Dr., Elgin, IL 60120.

Sgt. Hutton, 336th Ftr. Sqdn's artist, puts finishing touches on the cowl for Lt. Wiggins' VF-A, Nov. 1943. (Photo-Weckbacker)



EXPLANATION OF LIST

FIRST LINE

The Squadron Code - Denoted by:

QP—for 334th Fighter Squadron
WD—for 335th F.S.
VF—for 335th F.S.

The individual airplane letter is listed where known. In some cases more than one letter was assigned and some airplanes served in two squadrons. Prior to 3 April 1943 the 4th F.G.'s P-47's carried only the last two digits of the serial number as the code, but which had no squadron connection.

P-47 Model number — A variety of these was assigned to the 4th F.G. during its training and operational period, shown as the second group of data. No D-25RE or D-26RA "Bubble canopy" model P-47's were known to have been with the 4th F.G.

Serial number — the serial numbers are not in numerical sequence since the airplanes have been rearranged in squadron code order. There is no complete list of all P-47's of the Group available though all of the 335th Squadron's airplanes are known and listed here.

Airplane name — Following the usual *JOURNAL* practice the names of individual airplanes, where known, are given in all-capital letters on the first line.

SECOND LINE

Date or time period of squadron service — The date when, or period within which, the P-47 was known to have been in the certain unit. All dates are given in the usual American practice of Month-Day-Year, using only the last two digits of the year. (This is contrary to the source data from which the information was extracted, since the 4th F.G. had had an extensive British background, both in training and in service with the RAF prior to U.S. entry into the War, and most report functions were in the British manner of Day-Month-Year.)

Pilot names — Wherever known, established from reports, or photographs, or in some cases by confirmation of present-day 4th F.G. Assn. members, the dates on which pilots were flying specific airplanes are given. In some cases the fate of both are given, such as losses in flying accidents or in combat, which may be carried over to the third line in this presentation.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA was on Lt. Boehle's QP-O. (Photo- Hanning) Below at center, Major Roy Evans, 335th F.S., was formerly an Eagle Squadron pilot, thus used the already famous emblem of the RAF unit on his WD-M. (Photo - Roark) At right is Sgt. Webb Ramey, line chief in 334th F.S. by Lt. Chatterley's CALIFORNIA OR BUST.



THIRD LINE

Airplane markings are given, wherever possible, on the third line. Some information is available as to names or wording of special markings, and location on the airplane is cited.

334th FIGHTER SQUADRON - QP

04	41-6204	P-47C-2RE
	3-1-43	
56	41-6256	P-47C-2RE
	2-19-43	Lt. R. Patterson, 2-9-43 Capt. L. Gover 3-10-43
QP-B	42-7890	P-47D-1RE BOISE BEE
	6-26-43, 7-28-43	Lt. D. Beeson, 6-26-43, 7-28-43
QP-D	42-7945	P-47D-1RE MISS PLAINFIELD
	?	Lt. S. Pisanos
QP-E/L	42-6187	P-47C-2RE UNCLE DEN as E
	E: 3-1-43	Lt. H. Blanchfield, 3-1-43
	L: 7-28-43	Lt. H. Mills, 7-28-43
QP-E	42-7881	P-47D-1RE
	6-19-43	Lt. B. Castle crashed, Killed 6-19-43. Red gremlins on left cowl and fuselage.
QP-G	41-6358	P-47C-5RE CALIFORNIA OR BUST
	7	Lt. A. Chatterly. also R. Hofer.
QP-H	42-7980	P-47D-2RE TEXAS
	?	Lt. G. Montgomery
QP-I	42-8641	P-47D-5RE
QP-J	42-7873	P-47D-1RE
	6-17-43, Crashed and destroyed.	
QP-K	42-7876	P-47D-1RE MISS DALLAS
	Summer '43.	Lt. V. France
QP-M	41-6587	P-47C-5RE
QP-O		P-47C
		Lt. Vernon Bochle
QP-P	41-4604	P-47C-5RE
	6-26-43	Lt. D. Leaf 6-26-43
QP-P	42-75250	P-47D-11RE
		Belly landed on Delden Farm
QP-Q	41-6191	P-47C-2RE
	3-1-43	Lt. H. Mills, 7-26-43
	6-19-43	Belly landed
QP-Q	42-74751	P-47D-6RE
		Lt. H. Mills
QP-R	42-7981	P-47D-2RE
	6-26-43	Lt. R. Care, 6-26-43
QP-S	42-75254	P-47D-11RE
	2-3-44	Lt. W. Cox, KIA near Emden 2-3-44.
QP-U	42-8644	P-47D-5RE
QP-V	41-6196	P-47C-2RE
	3-1-43, 5-4-43	Lt. J. Lutz KIA 5-4-43
QP-W	41-6195	P-47C-2RE
	3-1-43	



QP-W/V 41-6413 P-47C-5RE
 9-29-43 Maj. J. Clark, 9-29-43
QP-W 42-75252 P-47D-11RE
QP-X 41-6342 P-47C-5RE
 7-28-43 Lt. Care, 7-28-43
QP-Z 42-7928 P-47D-1RE
 Belly landed unknown date.
QP- 41-6184 P-47C-2RE
 2-19-43 to 3-23-43 Lt. Miley, training
QP- 41-6194 P-47C-2RE
 2-19-43 to 3-23-43
QP- 41-6197 P-47C-2RE
 2-19-43 to 3-14-43
QP- 41-6202 P-47C-2RE
 3-13-43 Lt. A. Hopson, 3-13-43
QP- 41-6238 P-47C-2RE
QP- 41-6244 P-47C-2RE
 2-19-43 Lt. J. Goodson, training
QP- 41-6247 P-47C-2RE
QP- 41-6258 P-47C-2RE
 2-19-43 Capt. L. Gover, training
QP- 42-7874 P-47D-1RE
 12-2-43 Lt. McNabb killed in accident, a/c to salvage 12-2-43.
QP- 42-8619 WW P-47D-5RE MAN-MADE MONSTER
 May '45 Name near left side firewall, red cowl, red, white and blue OTU rudder.
QP- 42-75126 P-47D-10RE MIKE IV
 Name near left side firewall

335th FIGHTER SQUADRON -WD

WD-B 41-6182 P-47C-2RE
 3-11-43 to 1-24-44 Lt. L. Blanding 7-28-43
WD-B 42-8506 P-47D-5RE
 9-15-43 to 1-30-44 Lt. E. Mead and airplane lost 1-30-44, Lt. Mead POW.
WD-C 41-6224 P-47C-2RE
 4-5-43 Lt. G. Carpenter 4-5-43
WD-C 42-7910WW P-47D-1RE
 May to July 1945 Full red cowl, O.D. and grey overall, red, white, blue rudder
WD-D/W 42-7936 P-47D-1RE PISTOL PACKIN MAMA as W
 5-12-43 to 2-28-44 Lt. F. Smith on W.
WD-E 41-6178 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 1-14-44 Lt. F. Boyles 7-28-43
 (was 334th F.S. 2-19-43 to 3-14-43)
WD-E/C 42-7863 P-47D-1RE
 4-17-43 to 2-28-44 Capt. R. Evans on E, 7-28-43
 Maj. D. Blakeslee on C, 1-7-44
WD-F 41-6214 P-47C-2RE
 3-12-43 to 2-29-44 Maj. D. Blakeslee 4-15-43

WD-G 42-7901 P-47D-1RE
 5-12-43 to 3-17-44 Lt. F. Boyles, 7-30-43
WD-H 41-6206 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 9-20-43 Capt. L. Gover, 2-19-43;
 Capt. R. Evans, 5-29-43.
 (was 334th F.S., 2-19-43)
WD-I 41-6226 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 1-24-44 Capt. G. Carpenter 7-28-43
 (was 334th F.S. 2-19-43 to 3-16-43)
WD-K 41-6359 P-47C-5RE
 3-23-43 to 1-6-44 Damaged in takeoff accident with VF-R on 1-5-44
WD-M? 42-7879 P-47D-1RE
 4-18-43 to 2-28-44
WD-M 42-74686 P-47D-6RE
 9-18-43 to 2-29-44 Maj. R. Evans, July '43
 Eagle Squadron emblem on left cowl, 4 enemy a/c symbols.
 To salvage 2-29-44
WD-N 42-75119 P-47D-10RE
 11-24-43 to 1-29-44 Lt. B. Wyman KIA 1-29-44
WD-O 41-6233 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 12-20-43 Lt. A. Stanhope 7-30-43 (see WD-X)
 (was 334th F.S. 1-3-43) Panther on fleur-de-lis on left cowl.
WD-R 41-6621 P-47C-5RE
 4-6-43 to 3-19-44 Lt. P. McKennox 7-30-43
WD-R 42-75051 P-47D-10RE
 11-16-43 to 2-20-44 Lt. R. Reed KIA 2-20-44
WD-S 41-6185 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 2-25-44 Capt. D. Young, 7-14-43 & 7-30-43.
 (was 334th F.S. 1-3-43)
WD-T 42-74717 P-47D-6RE
 9-21-43 to 2-21-44 Lt. W. Rowles 2-20-44 Crash landed at Eastchurch, battle damage
WD-W 42-8495 P-47D-5RE
 10-18-43 to 2-6-44 Lt. H. Ballew POW 2-6-44.
WD-X 41-6207 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 9-7-43 Lt. K. Smith 5-16-43
 (was 334th F.S. 3-1-43) Lt. A. Stanhope POW, 9-7-43
WD-Y 41-6369 P-47C-2RE
 3-23-43 to 2-24-44 Lt. A. Stanhope 5-16-43
 Lt. J. Sullivan KIA 2-24-44
WD-Z 42-7939 P-47D-1RE
 5-4-43 to 7-14-43 Lt. E. Beatie 6-22-43
 Lt. W. Wortman KIA 7-14-43.
WD-Z 42-75112 P-47D-10RE
 11-24-43 to 2-24-44
WD- 41-6181 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 4-3-43
 (was 334th F.S. 2-19-43 to 3-14-43)
WD- 41-6190 P-47C-2RE
 6-14-43 to 9-20-43
WD- 41-6225 P-47C-2RE
 3-17-43 to 9-20-43 (was 334th F.S. 3-1-43)



Left, Lt. Stephenson of 336th F.S. beside his VF-S, October 1943. At center, Lt. Pierce Wiggins and Crew Chief Dorn Painter (nearest propeller) and ACC George Taylor (on his left) with VF-A, Sept. 1943. HI! RPM was on the nose of VF-M of 336th, flown by Lt. Jack Raphael. The crew are unidentified. (Photos - Glesner Weckbacker)



WD- 41-6248 P-47C-2RE
3-12-43 to 7-30-43 Lt. F. Merritt KIA 7-30-43

WD- 41-6260 P-47C-2RE
3-11-43 to 6-12-43 Lt. E. Beatie bailed out in channel 6-12-43

WD- 41-6328 P-47C-5RE
3-23-43 to 9-9-43 Lt. F. Fink bailed out over Paris, airplane lost, 9-9-43

WD- 41-6356 P-47C-5RE
3-23-43 to 5-19-43

WD- 41-6360 P-47C-5RE
3-23-43 to 11-3-43 Lt. L. Waterman spun in at takeoff from Halesworth, airplane burned 11-3-43.

WD- 41-6368 P-47C-5RE
3-23-43 to 2-28-44

WD- 41-6578 P-47C-5RE
4-6-43 to 9-20-43

WD- 41-6582 P-47C-5RE
4-6-43 to 2-28-44

WD- 42-7911 P-47D-1RE
6-2-43 to 10-8-43 Lt. R. Patterson POW 10-8-43.

WD- 42-7968
5-12-43 to 2-28-44

WD- 42-8409 P-47D-5RE
1-30-44 to 2-28-44

WD- 42-8414 P-47D-5RE
1-30-44 to 2-29-44

WD- 42-8457
1-28-44 to 2-29-44

WD- 42-8675 P-47D-5RE
9-21-43 to 3-19-44

WD- 42-22787 P-47D-4RA
2-13-44 to 2-18-44

WD- 42-74621 P-47D-6RE
9-27-43 to 3-19-44

WD- 42-74718 P-47D-6RE
9-21-43 to 3-23-44

WD- 42-74726 P-47D-6RE
6-19-43 to 2-28-44

WD- 42-75702 P-47D-15RE
1-21-44 to 1-27-44

336th FIGHTER SQUADRON - VF

VF-3 42-26059 WW P-47D-22RE
6-15-45 Col. E.W. Stewart, 6-15-45
Full red cowl, bare metal overall, blue rudder, codes on left wing undersurface.

VF-A 41-6541 P-47C-5RE
1-6-43 Lt. P. Wiggin, 9-6-43
An eagle dropping watermelon depicted on left cowl, RAF roundels on wheel covers.

VF-B 41-6533 P-47C-5RE
7-28-43 Lt. G. Mirsch, 7-28-43.

VF-B 41-6571 P-47C-RE THE EARL
9-25-43 Lt. G. Mirsch, 5-29-43.

VF-D 41-6192 P-47C-2RE LOLLAPOLUZA
8-11-43 Lt. W. Sooman 8-11-43
(was 334th F.S. 2-19-43 to 3-14-43) Airplane name on left cowl, NAN II on right fuselage near firewall.

VF-E 41-6575 P-47C-5RE DOREEN II
7-28-43, 12-18-43 Col. E. Anderson 7-28-43,
Capt. K. Carlson, 12-18-43.
Airplane name and a fighting eagle on right cowl.

VF-G 41-6574 P-47C-5RE MISS SAN CARLOS
7-28-43 Capt. L. Gover 7-28-43
Airplane name and girl in big hat on cowl.

VF-G/J 42-74688 P-47D-6RE MISS SAN CARLOS
9-6-43 Capt. L. Gover, 9-6-43.
Name and decoration as VF-G same as on S/n 41-6574.

VF-K 42-7895 P-47D-1RE
9-7-43 Lt. G. Smart, 9-7-43
Hitch-hiking angel on cloud on left cowl.

VF-L/H 41-6579 P-47C-5RE
Spring 1943 as L, 9-22-43 as H.
Lt. C. Miley, Spring 1943
Large Donald Duck on left cowl as L.
Lt. C. Ingold crashed, burned 9-22-43.

VF-R 41-6354 P-47C-5RE
1-5-44 Lt. J. Raphael 1-5-44
Collision on takeoff with WD-K, 5-1-44.

VF-S 41-6183 P-47C-2RE
9-26-43 Lt. A. Stephenson 9-26-43
(was 334 F.S., 2-19-43) Penguin in flying gear on left cowl as S.

VF-T 42-7884 P-47D-1RE
Summer 1943 Maj. G. Halsey, Summer 1943.

VF-U 41-6180 P-47C-2RE MISSOURI MAULER
? Capt. W. Milliken
(was 334th F.S., 2-19-43 to 3-14-43)

VF-W 42-7959 P-47D-2RE
6-22-43 and 9-6-43 Lt. J. Goodson 6-22-43 and 9-6-43.

The 4th Fighter Group was activated in the VIII Fighter Command in September 1942 and was established at Debden in early October, still flying Spitfires as when in operation with the RAF. The P-47's were received in early months of 1943, and as soon as the pilots and crew became familiar with them the first fighter sweeps were sent out. However, the P-47 period was only about a year long, and in February of the following year the group began to receive P-51's as a replacement aircraft. During the P-47 months, the three squadrons shot down approximately 120 enemy aircraft. During the next fifteen months the score rose to more than 1,000 by the end of the War.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A compilation such as this would not have been possible without the help of the many members of the 4th Fighter Group Association who loaned albums, photos, and records. Sincere thanks are expressed.

Below left, Lt. Stanhope and his crew with their WD-O in Summer 1943. (Photo - Jensen) At center, Crew Chief SSgt Larry Jones and Sgt. Martin Ferrel (in cap) with VF-B, THE EARL, Sept. 1943. (Photo- Weckbacker). Right, another TEXAS, of 336th F.S., flown by Lt. Edward Hughes. (Wehrman)

