

PRESS RELEASE – 29. August 2008, Santa Clara, California

The world premier of the next two sets of 1/300 scale decals for aircraft models took place at the PacificCon (Conquest S.F.) gaming convention held at the Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara, California over the Labor Day weekend 2008. These new offerings in the micro scale range of wargaming, follow on the initial release of their range offering national markings for B-17 and B-24 models begun in 2007, a sheet offering complete markings for the 44th Bomb Group (B-24s) and two sheets prepared for the Luftwaffe's bombers of the Battle of Britain.

The latest presentation was directly inspired by the award winning rules set "*Check Your 6!*". One of the scenarios from the basic rules set had been selected to be a Scale Specialties sponsored game at PacificCon, "*Attacking Berlin: Mission 250*". This particular game features a large number of aircraft, both bombers (16 called for from the 100th Bomb Group) and fighters, 8 U.S (P-47s from the 56th Fighter Group) and 12 German.

As completed, decal sheet **300AC-US-003** (\$17.50 U.S.), provides all the essential markings for twenty-six bombers of the 100th BG's four squadrons, 349th, 350th, 351st and 418th and two from the 570th BS/390th BG who also flew with the 100th on this bloody day in March 1944. Twenty of the decal groups found on the sheet represent the actual aircraft which participated in Mission 250 (the 100th BG's Mission 81). The remaining eight groups allow markings for the time periods prior to and after the mission date of 6. March 1944, 1943 through 1945, including four B-17Gs in natural metal finish, NMF. For the purist, F model B-17s were involved in the featured mission and three will be found in the twenty presented.



Twelve complete sets of national markings (star and bar) in the proper size for wing and fuselage in three variations are provided. For variety these come in "faded" blue, "greyed out" and "normal". Other time periods maybe found on sheet 300AC-US-001 providing red or yellow surround star and star and bar national insignias for B-17 and B-24s. The national markings are joined with twelve sets of the famed "Square D" 100th BG tactical insignia found on the wing and tail of their B-17s in insignia blue on white and three sets for NMF aircraft.



The individual aircraft decal groups include the squadron code, individual aircraft identifying letter, aircraft serial number **and/or** respective aircraft name/**NOSE ART!** As a side note, not all bombers had aircraft names or associated "nose art". In fact eight of those featured for the specific scenario didn't – true history. To carry this further, several planes had more than a single name. One aircraft possessed four singular names at various times during its service life. Two of these are presented on the sheet.

The second sheet released, **300AC-US-004** (\$14.50 U.S.), is primarily focused on the P-47 Thunderbolts of the 56th Fighter Group, the group providing fighter escort for the bombers of the 100th BG on the 8th Air Forces' Mission 250. Seven decal groups have been prepared for aircraft definitely associated with the mission (several others were probably there). Other groups of the total of twenty-eight feature P-47s of the 4th, 352nd and 355th Fighter Groups. The respective groups again feature the fighter squadron letter codes, individual aircraft letter, serial number **AND/OR** aircraft name/ "**nose art**". While all the 47s found on the subject mission were "razor back" models of the P-47, later "bubble top" version of the "D" model began to arrive in mid-44. These have been provided for and allows the presentation of the 56th's later unusual camouflaged aircraft of this and later periods.



The P-47 is to American fighters as the B-24 is to bombers, a large blank area *awaiting* the painter's handy work. Bomber personnel didn't have a corner on the "nose art" market. Scale Specialties has provided a variety of these specifics for the various time periods covered, 1943 through 1945, for both camouflaged and NMF planes. Again, twelve sets of national insignias have been provided with a number of extra fuselage insignia to insure the inter-cooler doors can be adequately covered. One set of yellow surround circles and the same for a red surround star and bar, provides for the early year of 1943. Additionally, the super large star and bar found below *both* wings of the P-47 have been included. These had been placed there to avoid misidentification with the German Fw-190 fighter and avoid "friendly ground fire". To assist in flying recognition and know as QIM, Quick Identification Markings, white stripes, 12" and 15" widths were placed around the rudder and tail assemblies of the Thunderbolt. Both sized stripes have been provided in strip lengths for use.



For the diminutive scale of 1/300, we believe Scale Specialties has set a new standard for complete historical presentation for models of this size for use by the modeler and wargamer in general. This is in keeping with SMS's motto "bringing history into the 21st Century." The full range of decals for vehicles, personnel and aircraft in various scale will be found on Scale Specialties' web site, <http://www.ss-sms.com>.