MODEL BUILDERS NOTES

Late in the war, both the 461St & 484th Bomb Groups were directed to change the markings on their aircraft so that ship numbers could be recognized from greater distances. This was necessary so that battle losses could be reported more accurately. The 461St Bomb Group used either a large red rectangle background with white numbers and the reverse red letters on a white background. Both designs were seen on unpainted aircraft. The 484th Bomb Group used a similar scheme employing a circle as the background. Unfortunately this resulted in the erasing of the colorful nose art that adorned the slab sided Liberators. This order was not followed consistently so some of the nose art survived. Mickey ships (Radar Bombing equipped) were identified by a three digit number in black or red on unpainted aircraft.

A silver B24-L of the 824 Squadron #29 returns from a mission with flak damage, (Marked in dotted circle) Note the red circle with white numbers Harry Jenkins photo 824 Sq  Photo 1

A painted B-24H of the 824 Squadron #25 completes its 100th mission, an accomplishment in itself as the combat life of most aircraft was rather short. Harry Jenkins photo  Photo 2

No. 71 766 Squadron shown in this crash shot displays the aircraft ID number underneath the belly with white lettering on a red square. Note the leading edges of the engine nacelles are painted also. Harry Oglesby 767 Sq photo  Photo 3

"Miss Kay" A B24J #44-18350 of the 764 Squadron displaying the white square with red number on an unpainted ship Note the leading edge cowl on No 2 is painted also. George F Brinker photo 461St BG  Photo 4