

A vintage four-engine propeller aircraft, likely a B-24 Liberator, is shown flying upside down against a solid red background. The aircraft is the central focus, with its four engines and landing gear clearly visible. Two smaller, similar aircraft are positioned in the upper left corner, also flying upside down. The overall composition is dynamic and emphasizes the inverted flight.

# WITH EVERY THING DOWN

by Doug McHard



Here's a model to delight the hearts of all World War II aircraft fans. It is without doubt the best 1/72nd Hurricane that has ever been offered and will be in great demand for a long time to come. This new Frog kit can be built as a Mk. 11C or as a Sea Hurricane and underwing bombs and rockets are also supplied in the standard kit. As supplied, the Sea Hurricane variant is assembled with a simulated arrester hook in the 'up' position, but here's an opportunity to fit a correctly retractable one with little effort.

Mounted in flying attitude on a stand, it is common practise to assemble the undercarriage in the retracted position, but it always seems a pity to throw away or hide the beautifully moulded undercarriage parts. A lowered undercarriage in flight, normally a bit clumsy, can be made to look quite acceptable if the flaps too are lowered. With a double surface wing moulding, it is a simple matter to cut the flaps from the bottom surface, and re-cement them in the 'down' position.

Doug McHard's picture pages this month show this work being carried out together with one or two extra refinements that keen addicts may like to incorporate.

1. If you are going to lower the flaps, it will be as well to blank off the wing cut-out in the lower fuselage with two pieces of Plastikard.

2. Using a sharp knife or a razor saw, separate the flaps from the lower wing surfaces. A slot can also be cut in each of the wheel-well openings to represent the rear undercarriage leg retraction bay.

3. A thin retraction strut can be added where shown. Use stretched plastic sprue for the job. Notice how the rear of the belly radiator has been cut away and note also the flap position. The reason for the Plastikard blanking-off pieces (photo. 1) can be seen here.

4. Later Hurricanes had a thin raised 'rim' round the top of the front nose bulkhead. We made ours with Plastikard Microstrip. The finished job is seen in photo. 5.

6. A saw-cut for each arm of the hook is made as shown (use a razor saw) and a small hole drilled at the forward end of each resulting slot.

7&8. Here's the finished job complete with hook. This is bent from thin wire and the bent-over hook can be thickened up with solder or a resin glue. Turn both ends inwards and clip them into the holes already drilled.

9. Two un-modified models built exactly as specified in the kit. Night fighter on the ground is finished in Kuttelwascher's 'Night Reaper' colours as shown in the Hurricane Profile. Matt transfers are supplied in the kit. The bomb-laden Hurricane with undercarriage retracted is the 'standard kit' Sea Hurricane.

