

Stinson L-5 Colors and Markings

by Gerry Asher



A



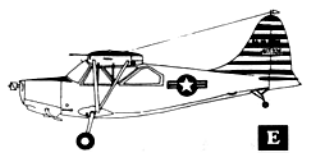
B



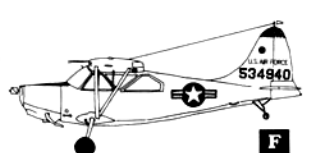
C



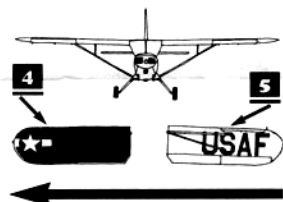
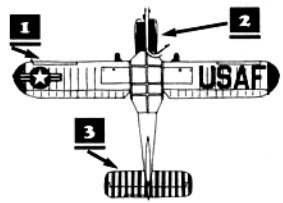
D



E



F



1. National insignia position typical for postwar aircraft
2. Note slight difference in anti-glare for aircraft "F" carried out to edge of nose bowl intakes.
3. Top view of aircraft depicting position of stripes on horizontal stabilizers.
4. National insignia style for aircraft "D" (upperleft and lower right wing surfaces)
5. "USAF" placement for postwar aircraft.

- A.** L-5B, 3rd Air Commando Group, Luzon, March 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow serial on vertical fin, alternating red and white stripes on rudder.
- B.** USMC-OY-1, unit unidentified, Okinawa, May 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Black lettering on vertical fin. Red mouth with white teeth in cowling with white surrounds on nose bowl intakes to simulate eyes.
- C.** L-5, 25th Liaison Squadron, May 1944. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow serial on vertical fin. Yellow "Guinea Short Lines" and kangaroo on left side cowl. "Frisco Kitty" on right cowl in white with detailed painting of dark haired, swan diving nude.
- D.** L-5, 25th Liaison Squadron, April 1944. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow serial on vertical fin. Yellow "Guinea Short Lines" script over brown kangaroo with yellow details. "Pacoima Honey" in yellow on right side cowl.
- E.** L-5C, 5th Tow Target Squadron, Sculthorpe, England, 1954. Overall silver and black anti-glare panel. Red wingtips on alternating red and white stripes on all tail surfaces, serial on vertical fin.
- F.** L-5G, 10th Liaison Squadron, Republic of Korea, 1952. Overall silver and black anti-glare panel. One inch red and white checkerboard on rudder tip, duplicated on main wheel covers. Black serial on vertical fin. 5th Air Force emblem (four inch diameter) on vertical fin.

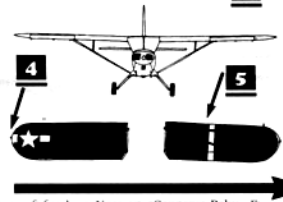
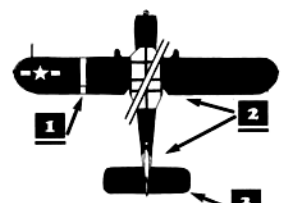


A



B

- A.** OY-1, assigned to the 1st Marine Division in Northern China, 1946. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Diamond in true blue with red "1" with white stars.
- B.** TNOY-2 of Marine Observation Squadron 6, Korea, November 1950. Overall glossy sea blue. All lettering in white ("TN" demoted training aircraft).



1. Wing stripe position for 160th LS aircraft
2. Mottled Edges of flying surfaces appeared on nearly all observer model L-5s (medium green)
3. Empennage paint configuration for aircraft "D"
4. National insignia style for aircraft "D" (typical top left and lower right wing surface)
5. Wing stripe position (lower surfaces) for 160th LS, L-5

- A.** L-5B, 1st Air Commando Group, March 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Five white diagonal bands at base of vertical stabilizer. Serial number in black on fin.
- B.** L-5B, 163rd Liaison Squadron, Okinawa, June 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow serial on fin. White "L8" code on aft fuselage. Nose art: "Gowtown Baby - Ft. Worth, Texas" in white lettering with a hand painted rendering of the pilot's son taken from a photograph. Colors in the painting unknown.
- C.** L-5, 160th Liaison Squadron, March 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow serial on vertical fin. White band carried diagonally on fin with red, white and blue shield. White band also on wings at mid-span, top and bottom.
- D.** L-5, 25th Liaison Squadron, July 1944. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Yellow script and kangaroo on both sides of cowling. White aft fuselage and vertical fin (horizontal stabilizer and elevator left in camouflage) with black serial. Note how national insignia carries only white bars added to original roundels (all positions). So far, this is the only 25th LS aircraft I have found (beyond their UC-78) to carry the "roo" logo on both sides.
- E.** L-5, 25th Liaison Squadron, June 1944. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Serial in yellow on vertical fin. Yellow "Guinea Short Lines" script with brown kangaroo with yellow details. "I'M A TRYIN'" in yellow with "TIRED" added in white as an afterthought.
- F.** L-5, 25th Liaison Squadron, October 1944. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. Serial in yellow on vertical fin. Yellow "Guinea Short Lines" and kangaroo. "Bay State Lizzie IV" on right side cowl in yellow with white silhouette of Massachusetts. Prior to this, the aircraft was nicknamed "Swamp Angel", carried in white on the right side cowl.



A



B



C



D



E



F

- C.** OY-1, Marine Observation Squadron 6, Tonpo Airfield, Hungman, Korea, 1951 olive drab with light gull gray undersides and lift struts. All lettering in white.
- D.** OY-1 assigned to Marines on Okinawa, June 1945. Olive drab with neutral gray undersides and lift struts. All lettering on vertical fin in black. Shark mouth on cowling in red with white teeth. White painted around cylinder cooling intakes to represent eyeballs from head on view.



C



D