

## Curtiss P-40N Warhawk

1943

### General History

#### Defender

At the outbreak of World War II, Curtiss P-40s formed the backbone of the U.S. Army's fighter corps. With an Allison engine mated to a mid-1930s airframe, the new Curtiss fighter was said to be outmoded from the start. But it could be built fast and in great numbers.

It was the P-40 that struggled into the air to counter Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines when the U.S. entered World War II. Through duels with Japan's best, *Warhawk* pilots discovered that their planes were tough. Some pilots called it the "Lead Sled" and joked about sending a letter to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Dear Mr. President: Please send us another P-40. The one we have is all shot up...."

The P-40 fought in almost every theatre of war, and flew with pilots of almost every Allied country, including the American Volunteer Group (*Flying Tigers*) in China and the Tuskegee Airmen (the first black combat pilots) in North Africa.

#### Flying Tigers

The P-40 is perhaps most famous for its use by the *Flying Tigers*. These American pilots were assembled by retired U.S. Army Air Corps Captain Claire Chennault to fight in China, and were officially named the American Volunteer Group (AVG).

With early model P-40B *Tomahawks*, painted with a fearsome shark teeth design on each side of the nose, the *Flying Tigers* challenged the Japanese along the Burma Road from December 1941 through July 1942. They attacked bridges, boats, vehicles and Imperial Japanese troops. They are reported to have destroyed 297 enemy aircraft with the loss of only 35 aircraft and 25 pilots to Japanese action.

### About This Aircraft

This P-40 wears the *Flying Tigers*' paint scheme of aircraft number 88, in honor of Yamhill County, Oregon native Ken Jernstedt. A Marine pilot who joined Claire Chennault's *Flying Tigers* in China, Jernstedt destroyed a total of 12.5 enemy aircraft with the American Volunteer Group. The aircraft depicts his five aerial victories.

This P-40 was assigned to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska during World War II. Flying with the U.S. Army Air Force, the plane helped protect critical locations like Dutch Harbor, Alaska from Japanese advance. During a mission, most likely in 1944, this P-40 suffered an engine failure or other malfunction, and it crash-landed into a fresh water marsh near Port Hayden.

More than 30 years later, in 1975, the remarkably intact aircraft was airlifted from its resting place via helicopter. Recovered by Al Redick of Reno, Nevada, the plane was sold a number of times and restored over many years. It was purchased by Evergreen in May of 1990.

### Specifications

Type:	Fighter Aircraft
First Flight:	XP-40 on October 14, 1938
Wingspan:	37 feet 3.5 inches
Length:	33 feet 4 inches
Height:	12 feet 4 inches
Wing Area:	236 square feet
Weight, Empty:	6,000 pounds
Weight, Loaded:	7,740 pounds
Power:	One Allison V-1710-99, 1,200 horsepower engine
Normal Crew:	One
Typical Armament:	Six .50 caliber machine guns, one 500 pound bomb

### Performance

Cruise Speed:	263 miles per hour
Top Speed:	350 miles per hour at 16,400 feet
Range:	750 miles
Service Ceiling:	31,000 feet



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