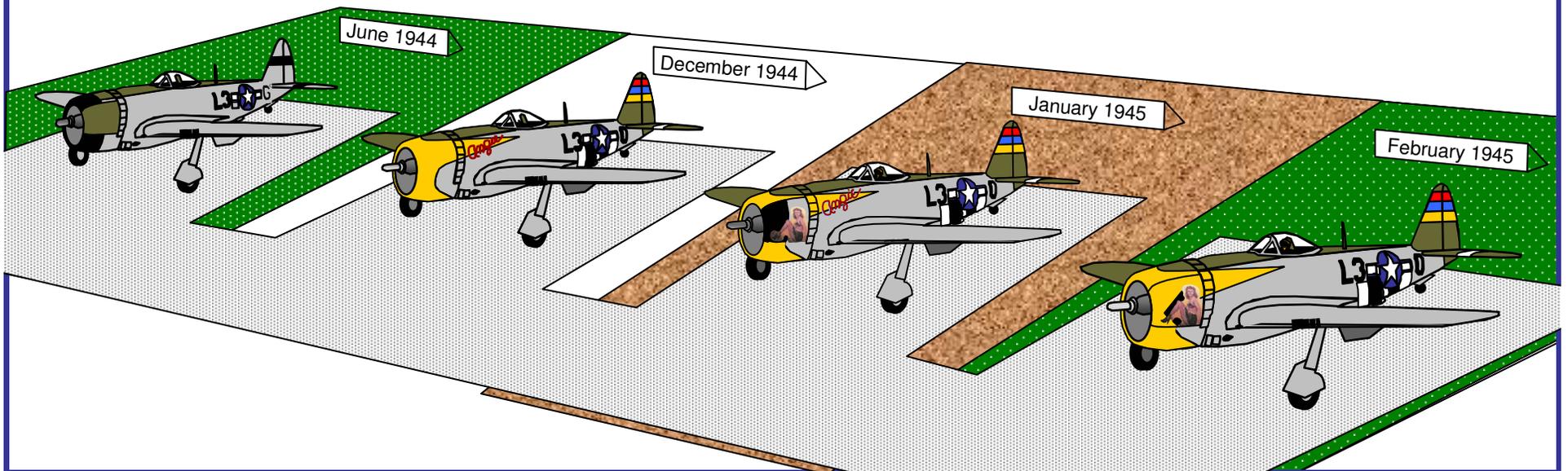


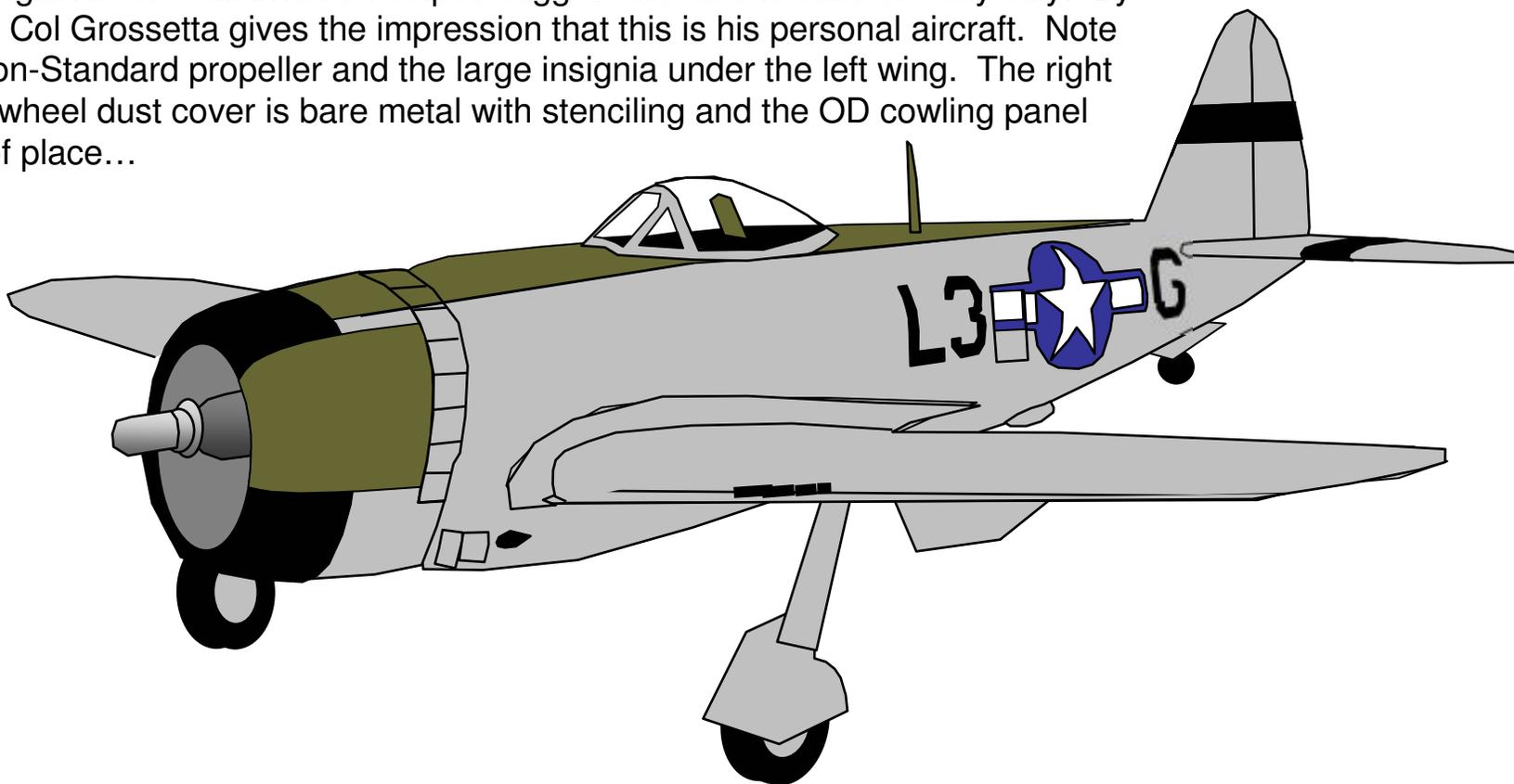
Another 512th Fighter Squadron Diorama

My ideas for dioramas have gotten way ahead of actual construction of them. However, my research on the 512th P-47D 42-26860 L3-O "Angie" has prompted me to imagine one more. This one is not a scene from 512th FS history but rather a set of four depictions of "Angie" at 4 stages in her evolution. Like the other dioramas I have proposed, this story of a single aircraft highlights the battering these planes took every day and the great love and care they received from their ground crews.



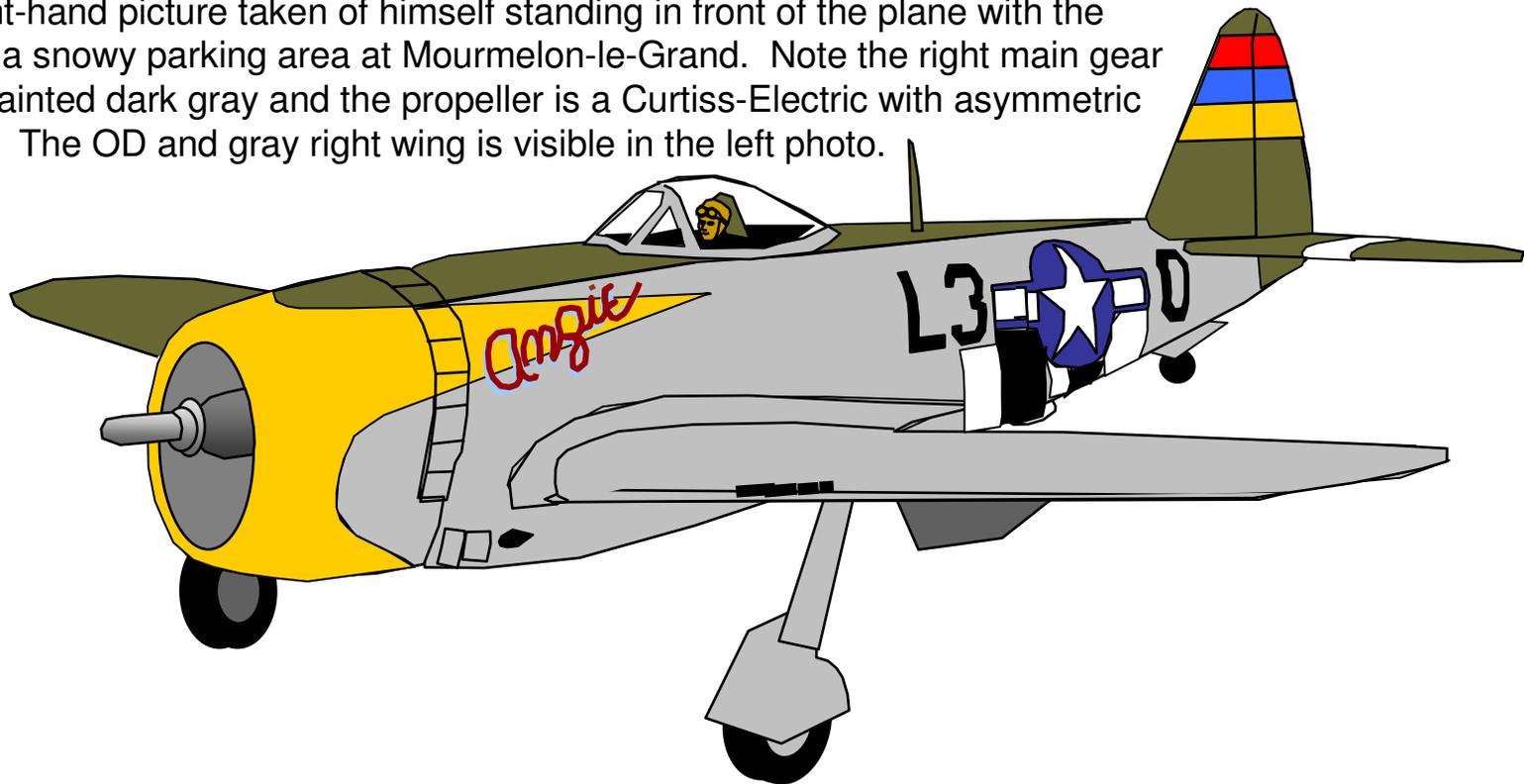


P-47D-27 42-26860 was coded L3-G when these pictures were taken at ALG 417 Ashford, England. The full invasion stripes suggest the date is June or early July. By his stance, Col Grossetta gives the impression that this is his personal aircraft. Note the Hamilton-Standard propeller and the large insignia under the left wing. The right main gear wheel dust cover is bare metal with stenciling and the OD cowling panel looks out of place...



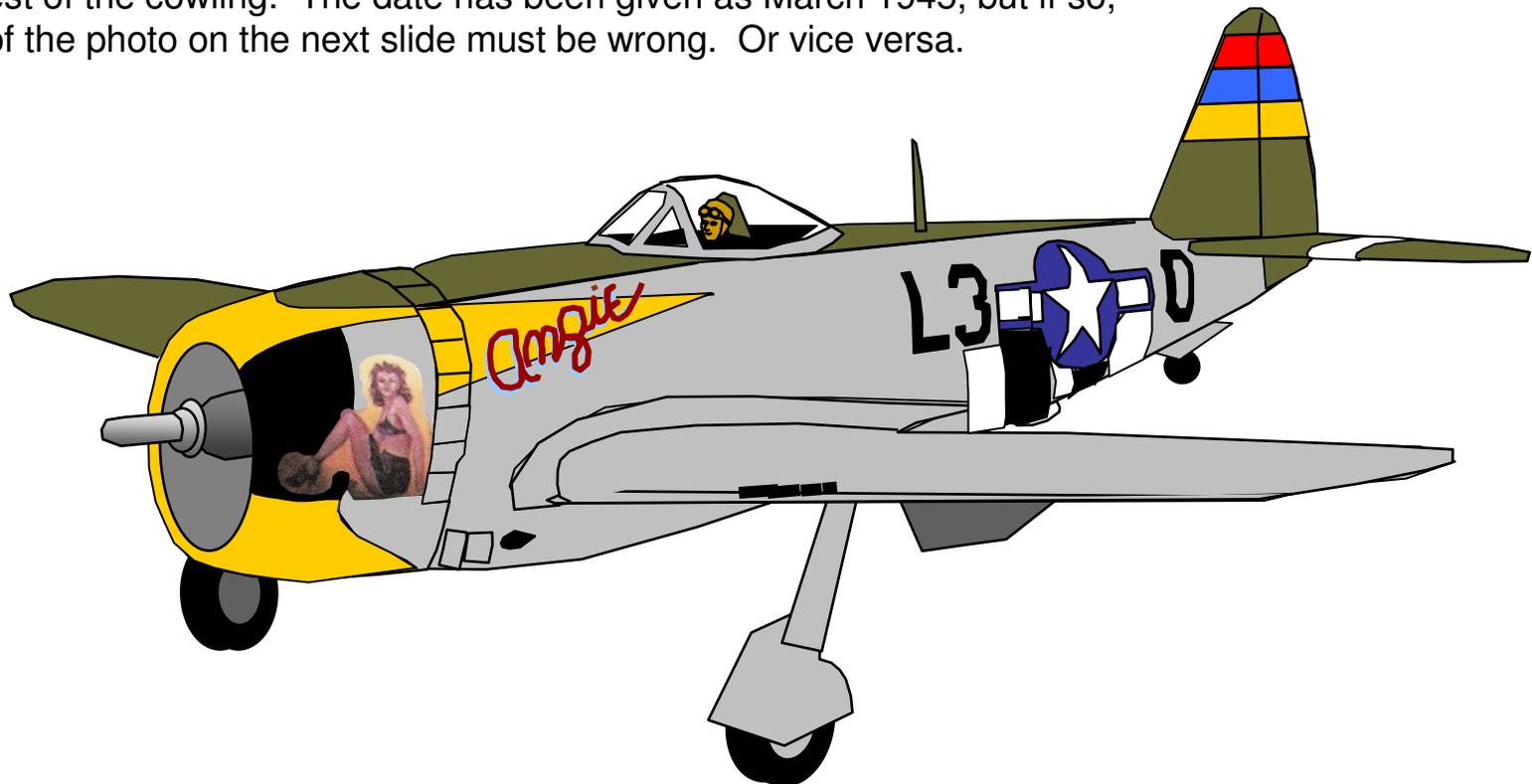


The name "Angie" had not yet been painted on 42-26860 L3-O at the time of the left photo, but before 1Lt Walker Diamanti rotated back to the States on 13 January 1945, he had the right-hand picture taken of himself standing in front of the plane with the name on it, on a snowy parking area at Mourmelon-le-Grand. Note the right main gear dust cover is painted dark gray and the propeller is a Curtiss-Electric with asymmetric paddle blades. The OD and gray right wing is visible in the left photo.





By the time of this photo 42-26860 L3-O had acquired a cowling panel with pinup girl art on it. Apparently, the panel was a new acquisition, as it had not yet been painted to match the rest of the cowling. The date has been given as March 1945, but if so, then the date of the photo on the next slide must be wrong. Or vice versa.





The name "Angie" was gone when 42-26860 was photographed landing at Y-29 Asch, Belgium. The date is given as 16 February 1945. If so, the name "Angie" was only on the aircraft for about two months. On the other hand, the pinup art was apparently there to stay, now surrounded with yellow to match the rest of the cowling. Note that both underwing pylons are painted dark gray.

