

National Naval Aviation Museum



Pensacola, Florida

August 1, 2023

<https://navalaviationmuseum.org/about-us/>

A-4E/F
Skyhawk

Flown by the
Blue Angels
from 1974 to
1986.

The Blue
Angels are
based in
Pensacola.



Nieuport 28

The Navy used the Nieuport 28 in the postwar evaluation of operating aircraft from ships. In 1919 the sea service acquired twelve examples for service with the fleet as part of the "shipboard fighter" concept. The aircraft flew from platforms built on the forward turrets of battleships. After completing their flights, they either landed ashore or ditched at sea, inflating flotation bags affixed to the wings to prevent the airplane from sinking. They were then returned to the ship by boat.



Fokker D. VII

This is a replica built
with some original
parts of a WW-I
D.VII





fokker
D VII
Fabric
6761
18

715 Kg.
80
895 Kg
Fok. D VII (Alb.)
6761
18

Original fabric section with Lozenge pattern of a Fokker D.VII built in 1918

Thomas
Morse
Floatplane



Russian MiG-15 in
Chinese markings





Side view of the MiG-15



North American FJ-4 Fury

Grumman FF-1

This example is an export version found in a Nicaraguan scrapyard, recovered, and restored.



BFC-2 Goshawk.

This example was restored using some original components. It is shown in the markings of Bureau Number 9332, which flew with the High Hats from the aircraft carrier Saratoga (CV 3)



NC-4. This is the first plane to cross the Atlantic in 1919. It is on loan from the Smithsonian.





NC-4 behind the FF-1



Grumman F3F-2. Last biplane type used by the Navy before monoplanes

Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny"



Other
side of
the Jenny



Curtiss F6C-1 Hawk

The Navy used the F6C's to experiment in dive bombing. The metal leading edge of the wing allowed for steeper angles of attack, up to 70 degrees, resulting in greater accuracy of bombing.





Sopwith Camel shown as deployed on the Battleship Texas



Consolidated-Fleet N2Y-1





Ford RR-5 Tri-Motor



Early Grumman F3F-3 Wildcat

SB2U-2 Vindicator with open panels. This is the only known Vindicator in existence.



Opened Vindicator

This and the
eight following
slides show
detail shots of
the Vindicator









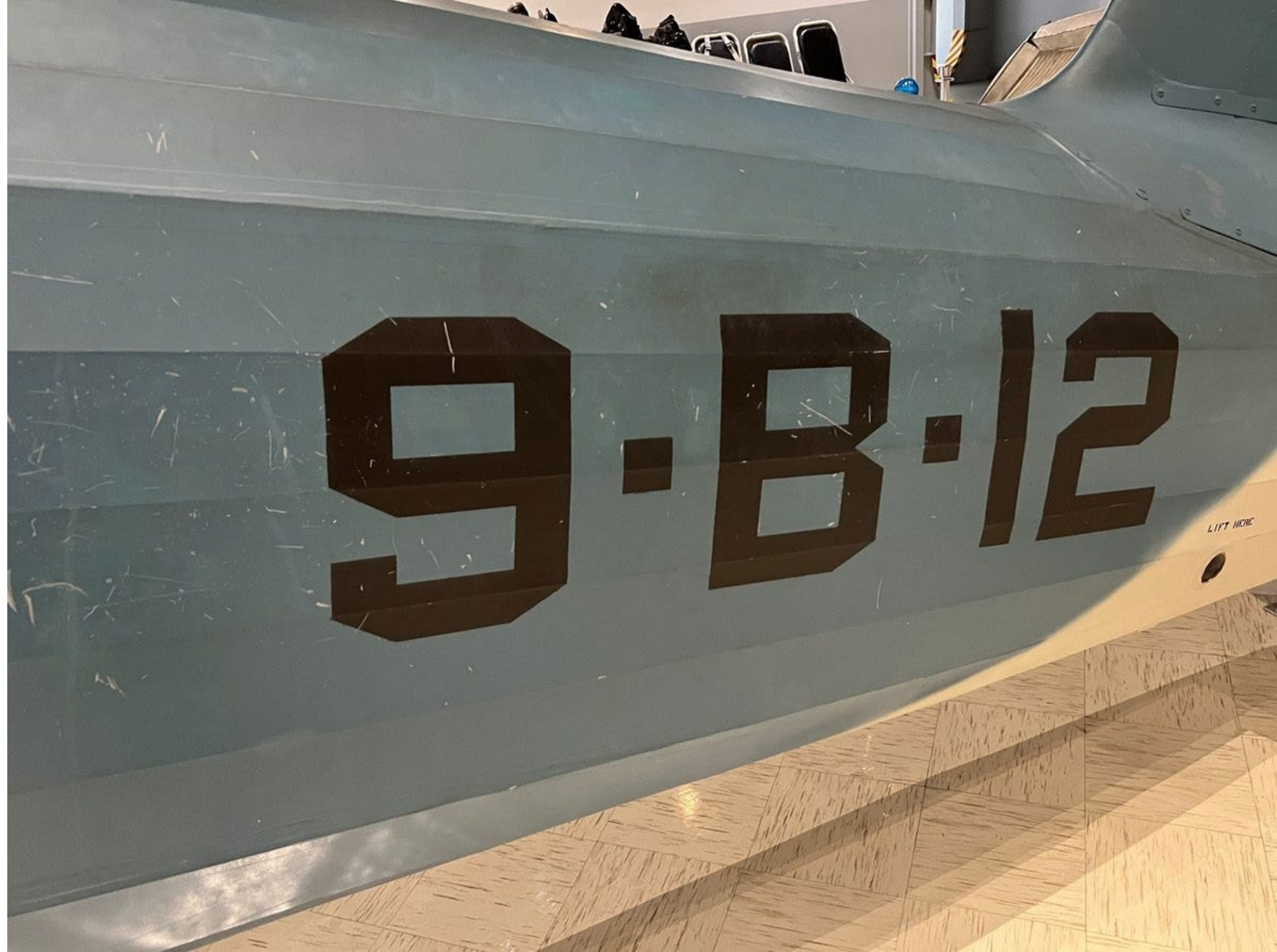








Fuselage closeup of the
Vindicator showing fabric
covering.





Cutaway of North American SNJ trainer with close ups in the 5 following slides











Curtiss P40-B depicted as a plane of the American Volunteer Group, "Flying Tigers".

This P40 was originally delivered to Great Britain, transferred to the Soviet Union in 1942, it crashed near Murmansk during the war, and was recovered in 1990.

This restoration is marked as a P40 of the highest scoring AVG Ace, Robert Neale. He was in the US Navy prior to resigning his commission to join the AVG. He is credited with 15-1/2 kills.

The following eight slides are of this P40

















Vought
Corsair





North American T-28 Trojan

N3N-3 Navy trainer plane.



N3N-3 floatplane





North American T-2 Buckeye

Marine
PBJ B-25.

It has been
modified and
painted to
display as a
Doolittle Tokyo
raider

The 8 following
slides are close
ups of this B-25















B-25 top MG
turret





Grumman F3F
Wildcat.

This particular Wildcat was used in the US Atlantic Neutrality Patrol before WW-II. It was transferred to Lake Michigan for carrier qualification, ditched in flight training in 1943, and recovered in 1987.

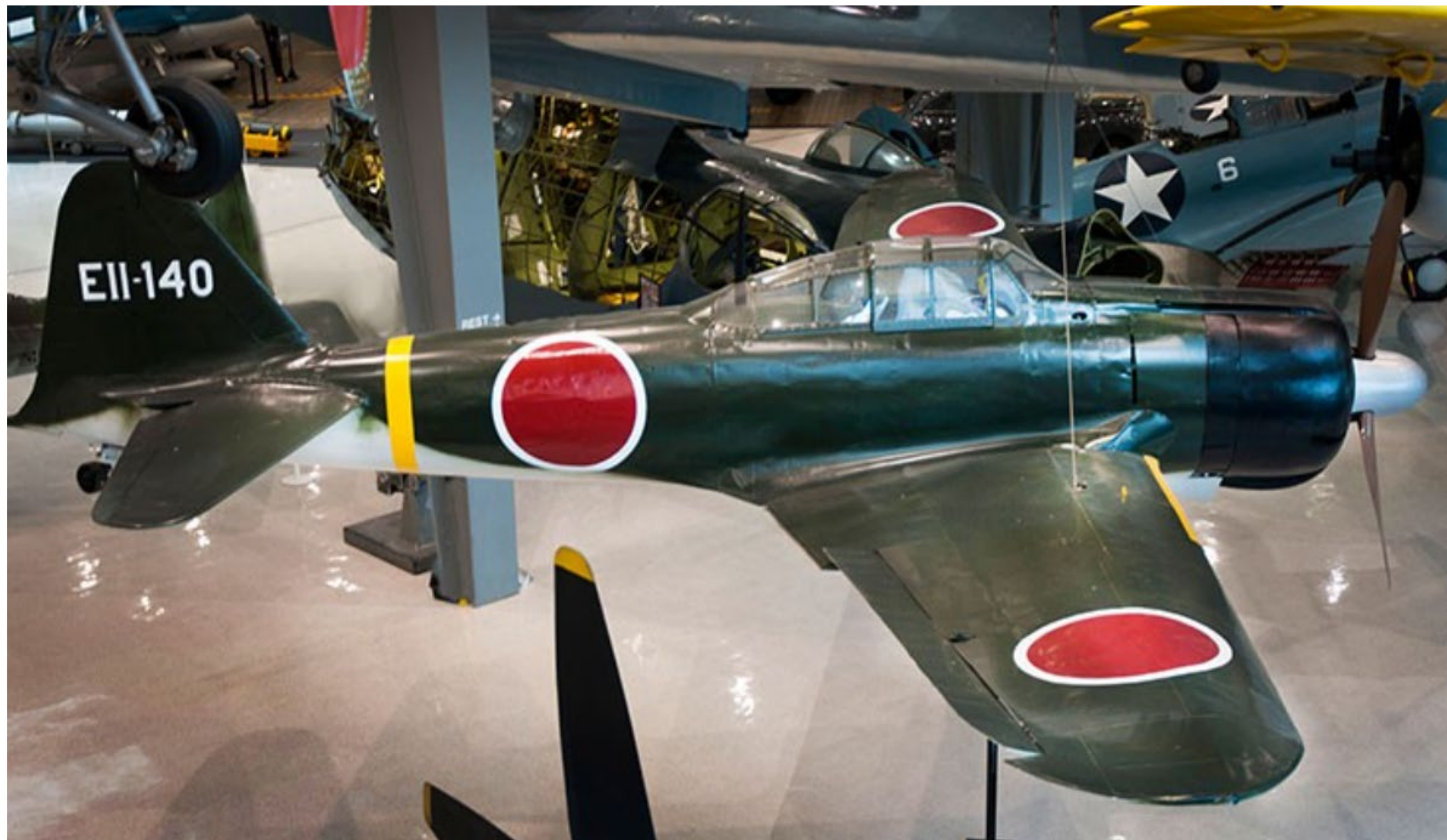
Many of the museum's WW-II aircraft were recovered from Lake Michigan.



Mitsubishi A6M Zero.

The Museum's example of the Zero is a conglomerate of components from several aircraft wrecks discovered at an abandoned fighter strip on Ballele Island near Bougainville.





Dauntless SBD-2

The museum's Dauntless is one of the most historically significant aircraft in the collection. It survived Pearl Harbor and attacked Japanese shipping in New Guinea while flying from USS Lexington (CV 2) on March 10, 1942. The lone remaining airplane to have participated in the Battle of Midway in June 1942, it returned from an attack against the Japanese fleet with over 200 bullet holes in its fuselage, the patches covering them still visible in places on the airplane.

This plane was recovered from Lake Michigan where it ditched during carrier landing qualification training in 1943.





The following eighteen slides show detail photos of this Dauntless



Recovered from the depths of Lake Michigan, where it crashed on 11 June 1943 after being assigned to the Carrier Qualification Training Unit, this warbird is the most historically significant Navy combat aircraft ever placed on display, the only known survivor of the Battle of Midway, the most important battle in the history of naval aviation, and one of the few naval aircraft anywhere to have seen the face of battle firsthand.

Nearly one hundred dedicated staff members and volunteers have painstakingly restored Bureau Number 2106, logging approximately 70,000 hours of work putting the old warbird into display condition. Over 90% of the aircraft consists of period parts, combining refurbished original components that were on the aircraft when it sank to the depths of Lake Michigan with wartime parts obtained from other sources.

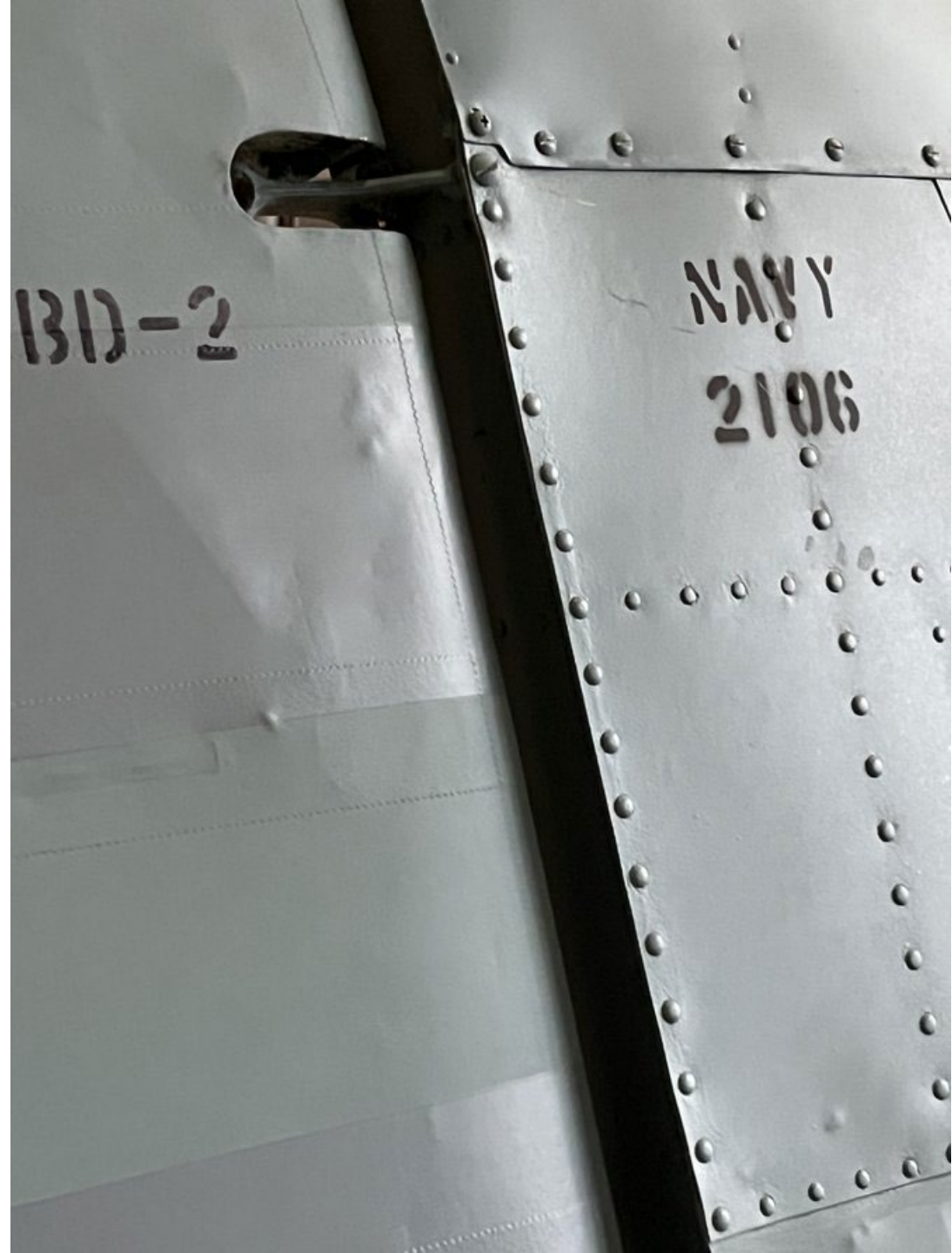












The twin .30 Caliber machine guns were left un-restored.

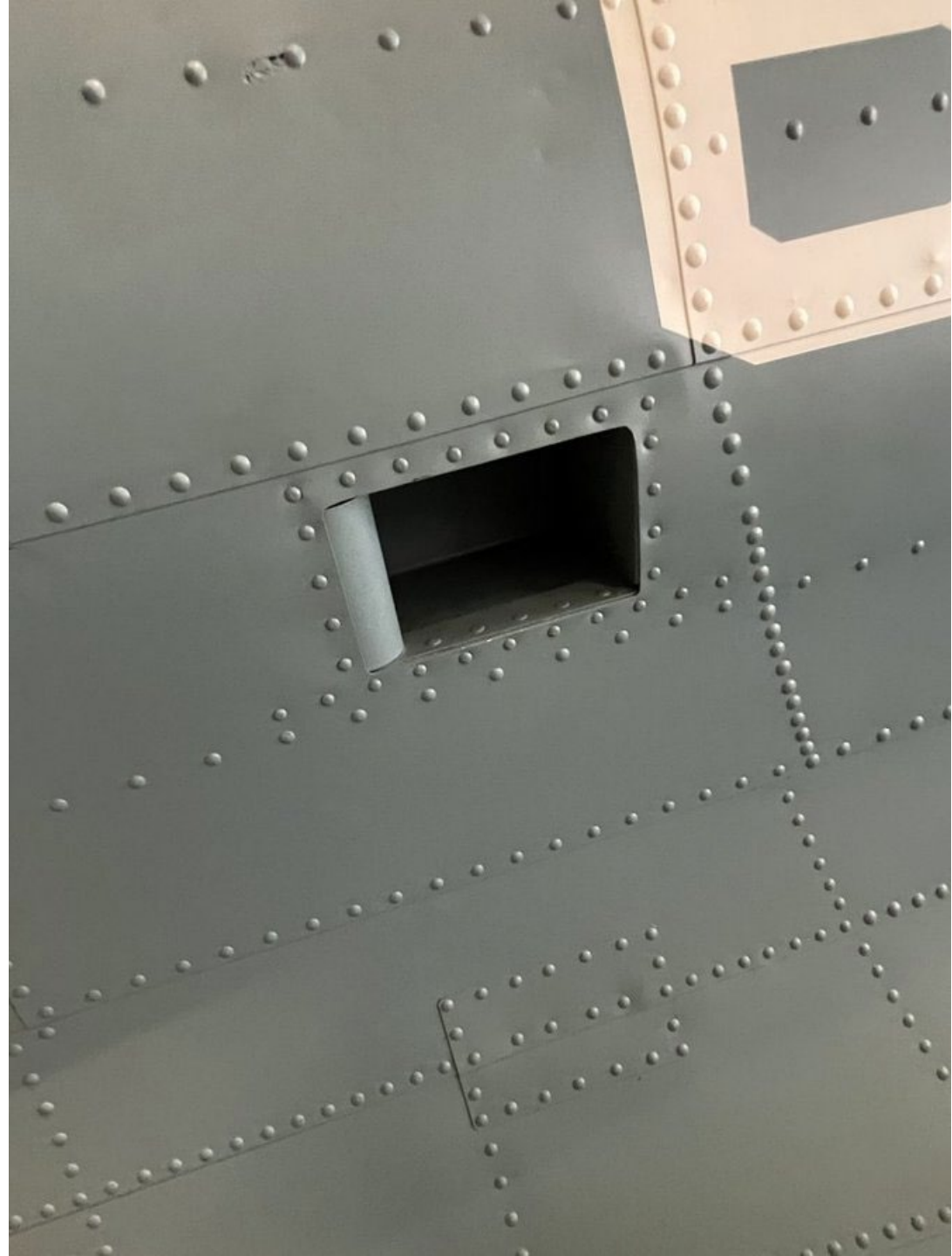






You can see
bullet hole
patches on
the fuselage
in the image
to the left













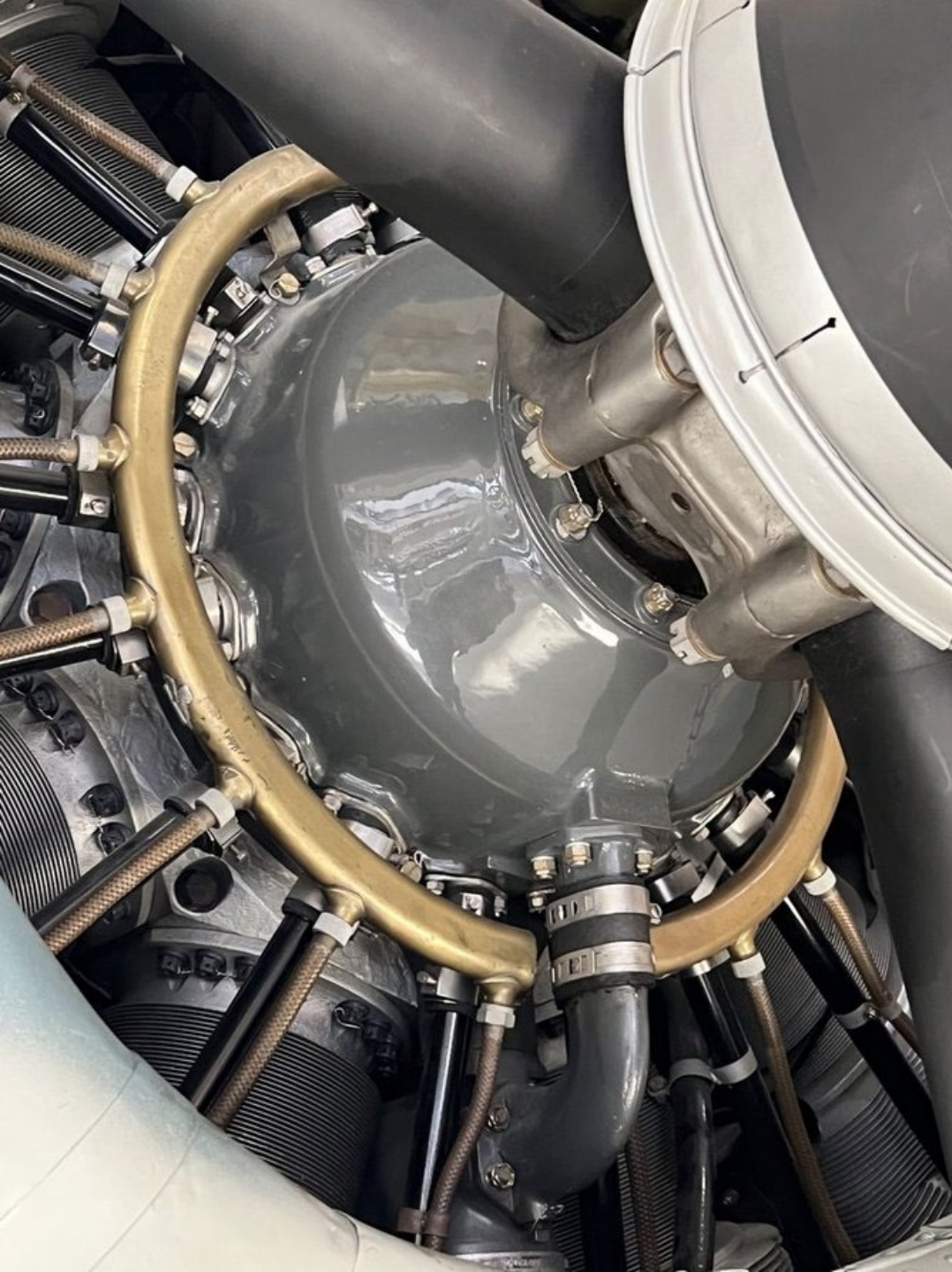
You can see several riveted patches covering the bullet holes from the Battle of Midway.











Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat

One of the top fighters of World War II, Grumman's F6F Hellcat went from the experimental stage to operational employment in less than 18 months. Its combat operations began in August 1943.

Outperforming the famous Japanese A6M Zero, the F6F accounted for 5,156 enemy aircraft destroyed, 75 percent of the Navy's air-to-air victories.



OS2U Kingfisher





Brewster SB2A Buccaneer. A total failure it never saw combat, so bad it was even rejected as a trainer. Some planes went directly from the factory to the scrap heap. The Brewster company had many issues and closed in 1946.

Grumman J2F Duck



PBY-5 Catalina

Cutaway
Catalina is
below





Catalina Cutaway



MiG-29

PBY sitting in
outside storage





More planes sitting in outside storage. The flightline for the Blue Angels show is to the left.



Pensacola NAS is the Blue Angels' home base. We got to see a show as they practiced next to the museum.

A-7E Corsair II



Sikorsky VH-3a
Sea King

Marine One
Helicopter for the
President



CH-46D Sea Knight



HH-52A
Sea Guard



RD-4
Dolphin



SH-2F Seasprite



F-14 Tomcat

This plane flew
the last combat
mission of any
Tomcat on
February 1, 2006



North American Rockwell
OV-10 Bronco





AV-8C Harrier



R4D-5L Skytrain

K-Class Control Car

The K-Class blimps were used by the Navy to hunt for German U-Boats. Doctrine was for the blimps to only attack once the sub dived.

An incident in 1943 exemplifies the doctrine reasoning. K-74 attacked a surfaced German sub in the Florida straits in 1943 to protect a nearby freighter and tanker. The crew of U-134 shot down the blimp. The two US ships did escape attack by the U-boat.

The blimp crew abandoned it when it hit the water. Lieutenant Grills re-entered the gondola to check that all classified material had been tossed overboard. When he exited, he was separated from the others. Grills was picked up by a SC-657 the next morning, 6 miles from K-74. The other eight crew members had stayed together and were picked up by the destroyer Dahlgren, which rescued seven of the eight remaining crewmen. The eighth was attacked and killed by a shark minutes before Dahlgren arrived.



Kawanishi
George



Translated, the aircraft's nickname Shiden Kai means *Violet Lightning Modified*. During World War II, the Allies assigned codenames consisting of male and female names to Japanese aircraft for easier identification. The Shiden Kai (and its Shiden predecessor) was known as "George."

Almost all of the components of the George are original, which is evidenced by the numerous dents and hastily applied repair patches that are visible on its skin panels. Proof of the aircraft's combat days appears in the form of a .50 caliber bullet hole on the forward section of the right wing.

This aircraft served in combat with the 343rd Kokutai, which was called the "Squadron of Experts" because of the experience level of its pilots. The squadron was commanded by Captain Minoru Genda, the mastermind behind the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

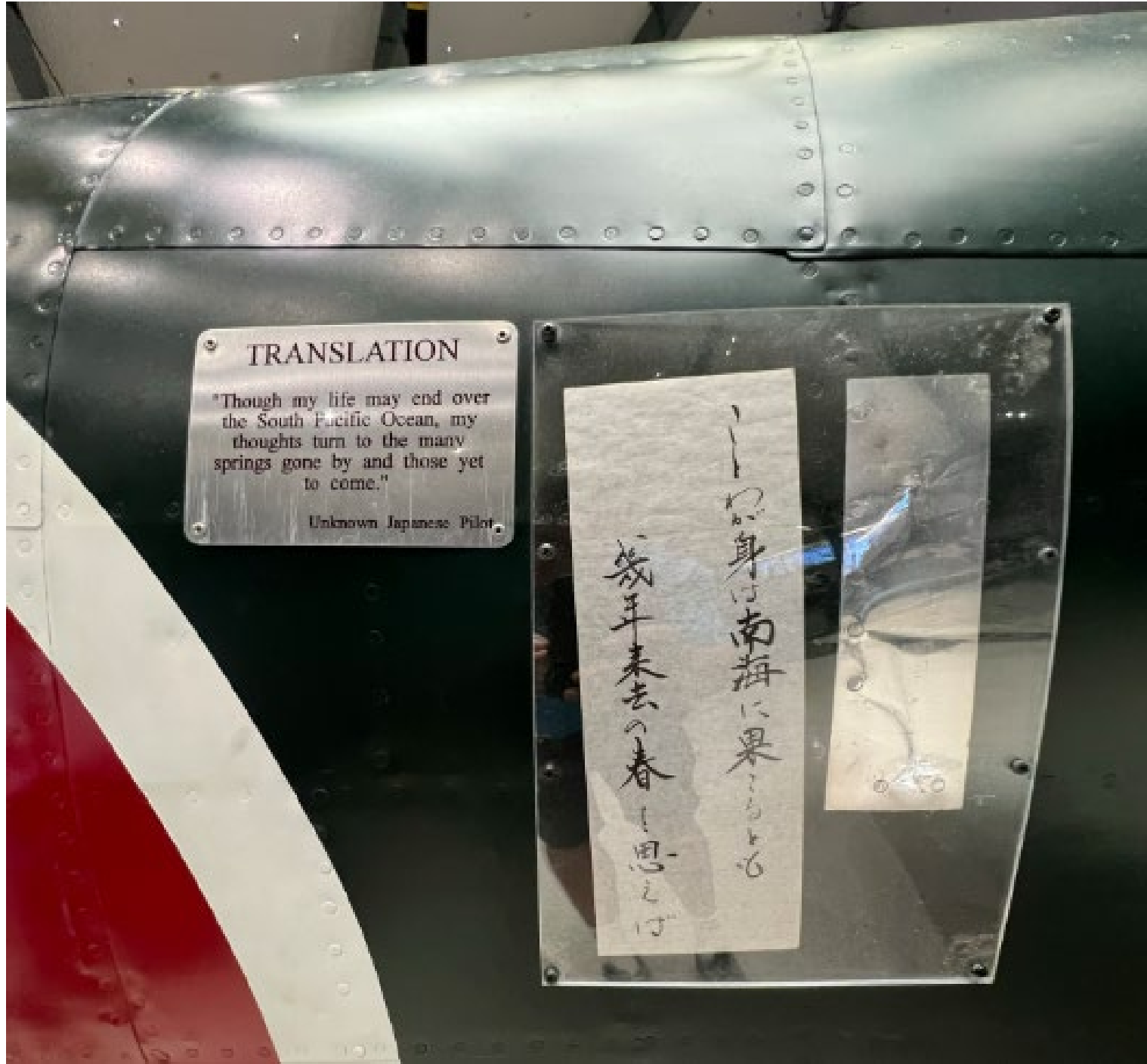
A trophy of war, this fighter was one of 145 Japanese aircraft of all types seized by the Allies at the end of the war and returned on board an escort carrier to the United States for evaluation.

One of the more interesting aspects of the aircraft is the imprint of a poem, written in Japanese script, which was found etched in the metal on the rear portion of the left side of the fuselage. Likely written by a Japanese pilot, the poem reads "Though my life may end over the South Pacific Ocean, my thoughts turn to the many springs gone by and those yet to come."





Poem on the fuselage
of the George





Messerschmitt Me-262 Two-seat Trainer. This plane was brought back from Germany for Navy flight evaluation

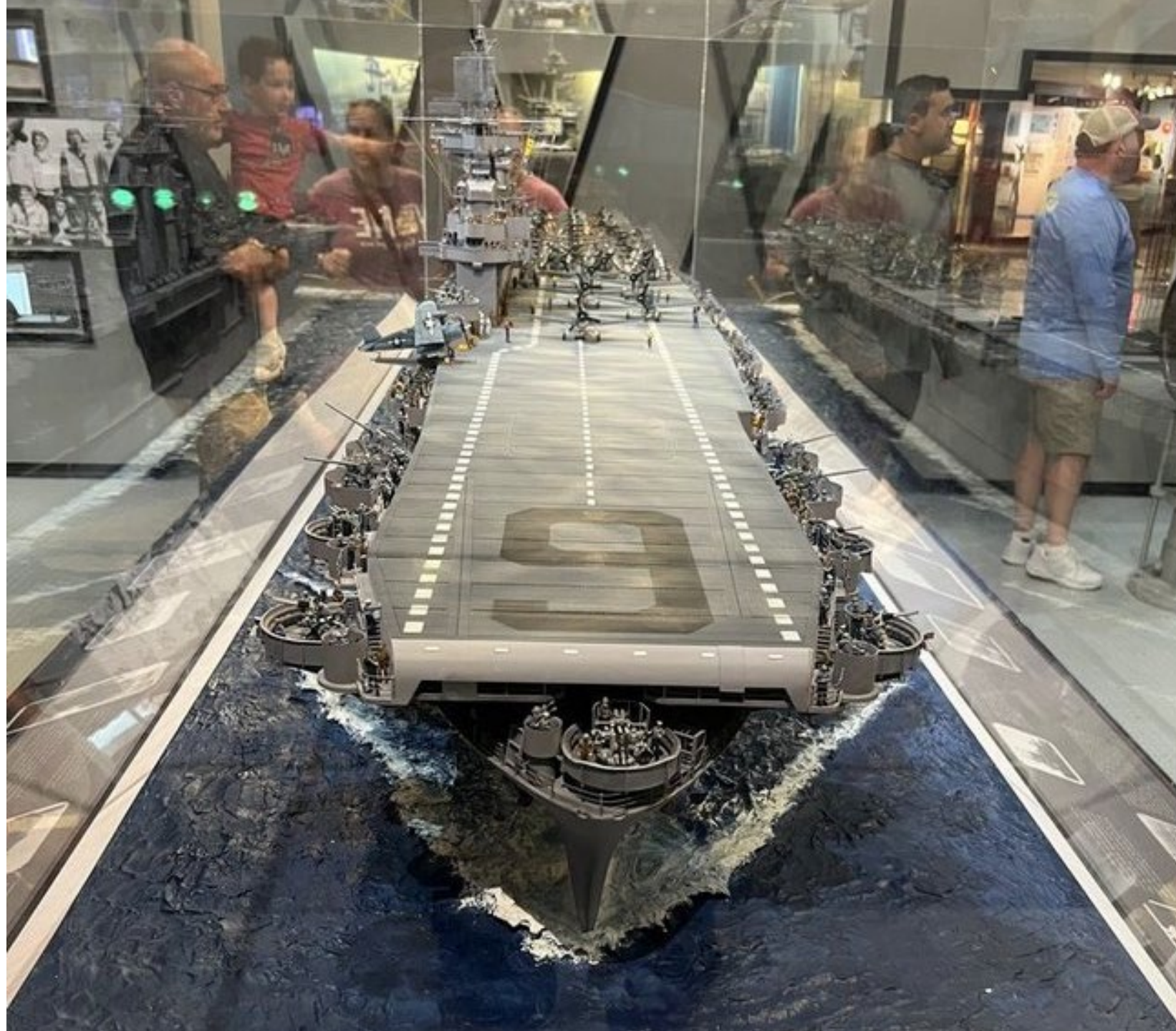
Gun bay of the Me 262
trainer



Vought Corsair on
simulated Carrier Deck
that is the dimensions of a
WW-II carrier.



The most decorated US Navy ship of World War II, USS Enterprise (CV 6) fought in nearly every significant battle of World War II. The exhibit devoted to her history features original components from the ship and a highly detailed model depicting the aircraft carrier during the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944. A flag that flew from the ship's mast during the Battle of Santa Cruz in October 1942, a gift to landing signal officer Lieutenant Robin Lindsey, is also part of the exhibit.



Buccaneer above
and Hellcat below



FM-2 Wildcat in
Cactus Air Force
markings Guadalcanal
fame in a vignette
setting



Opposite side
view of the
Wildcat



Grumman F9F Panther

One of
Grumman's
best looking
jets and made
famous in the
movie "The
Bridges at
Toko Ri"









Lockheed L-10 Electra. A heavily modified Electra was flown by Amelia Earhart in her 1937 around the world attempt



Full size Corsair Diorama depicting a scene from the Korean War as seen in the movie "Devotion"

The last two slides show the size of the main building of the museum



