

Jim Schubert

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The Seattle Times
Color Rotogravure

Sunday

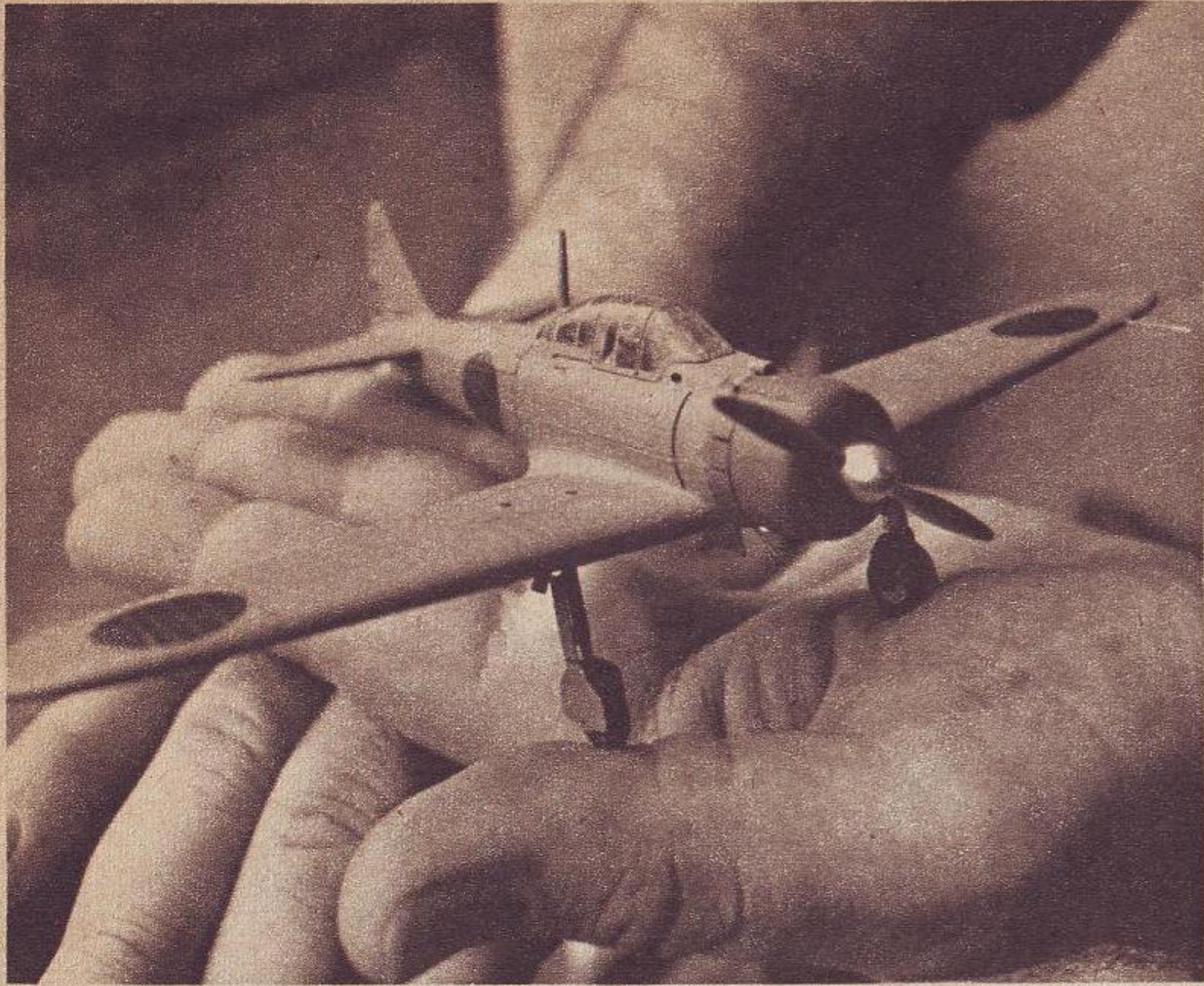
Pictorial
MAGAZINE

APRIL 13, 1969



Running Snoqualmie River Rapids in a Kayak

Photo by Bob and Ira Spring



A scale model of a Japanese Zero of World War II fame, built by a member of the International Plastic Modelers Society, is so true to detail that Japanese characters are on the instrument panel and fuselage.

Photos by Al Fisk

Plastic Scale Models— Authenticity Is the Word

By Lois M. Fisk

SOME hobbyists are content to buy a kit and build a plane, ship or car, put it on a shelf and forget about it. But not members of the International Plastic Modelers Society.

To the Seattle chapter of the I. P. M. S., authenticity is the principal thing. Their models must be technically accurate, so they research the history of each, learning the history of the plane or ship, its original builder. The country or company that purchased the craft is sought as well as construction details, paint colors, markings, flight characteristics, combat areas they were used in and the final disposition of each.

The group, which was the first American chapter of the organization that began in England, meets the third Saturday of each month in the crafts room of the Museum of Science and Industry to display the models and compare notes.

Although planes are the most popular models, some I. P. M. S. members construct miniature soldiers, tanks, ships and automobiles. Through their search for the perfect reproduction, they learn manufacturing data, such as the type of paint, assembly methods and pertinent data of the time the vehicle was in use. Some

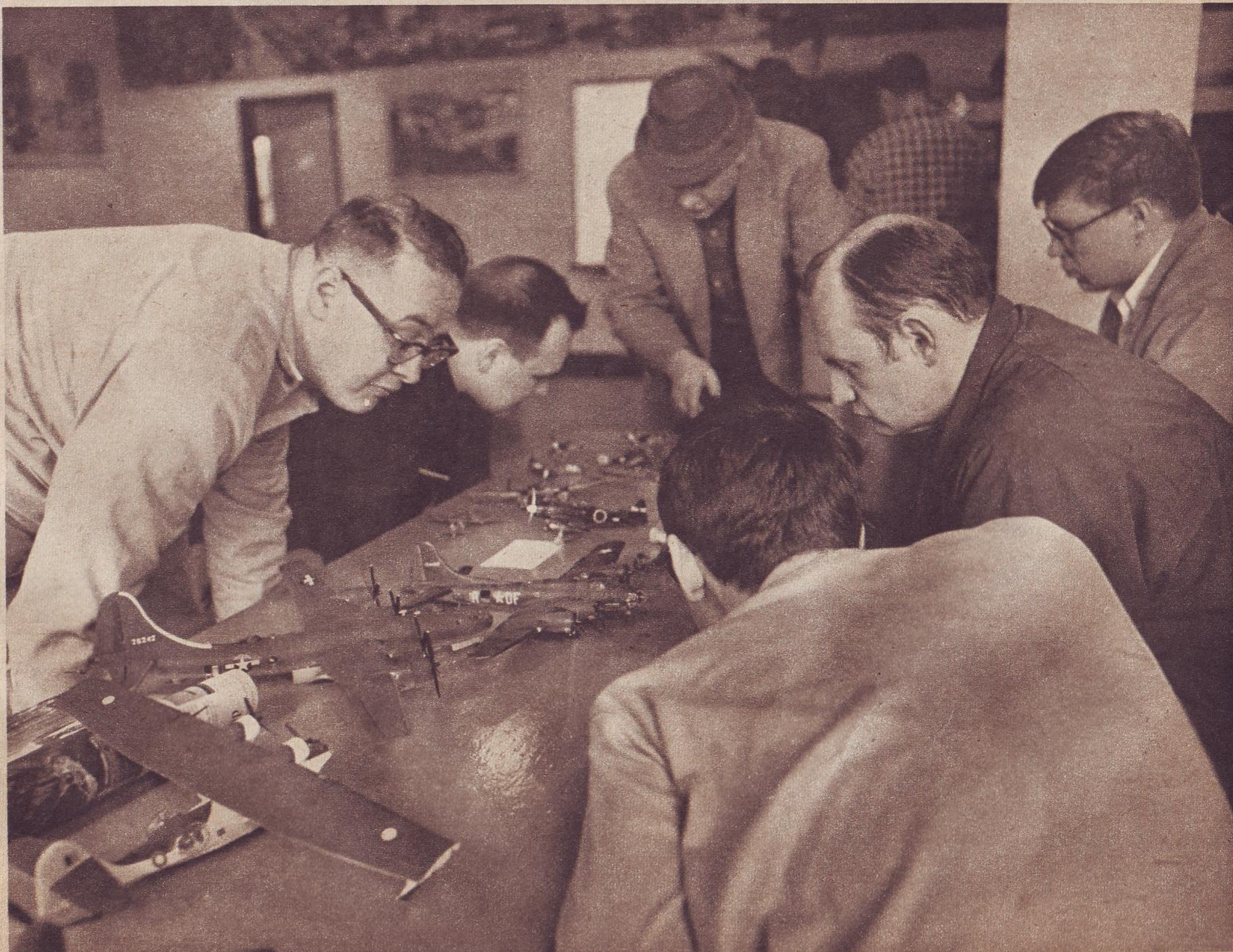
modelers specialize in planes from one particular country. A collection of Finnish Air Force models is owned by John Greer, a sixth-grade teacher at Normandy Park. On the other hand, Bill Weaver, an electrical engineer at The Boeing Co., collects planes representing as many different countries as possible.

If the kits do not include authentic decals and other markings, the modeler must provide them himself. In the case of Jim Schubert's Japanese Zeros, this involves painting, with a very steady hand and tiny brush, the Japanese characters in the cockpit and on the fuselage.

Modelers have found that generally the foreign-made kits are more authentic than American-made ones, partly because the American kits are primarily toys.

If the modeler wishes to build a plane for which no kit is available, he has three choices: Wait until a company develops a kit; convert an existing model, or build it from bits and pieces of several kits. Conversion is the simpler, if it is possible, and building it from bits and pieces usually involves extensive modification. To make matters worse, frequently a modeler will complete his plane only to learn it has just become available in a new kit.

World War II bombers received close scrutiny from members of the society at one of the monthly meetings.



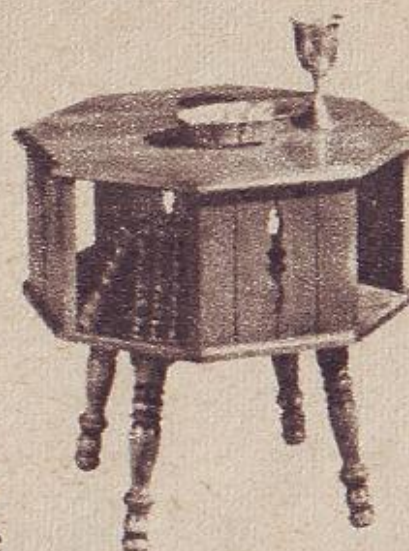
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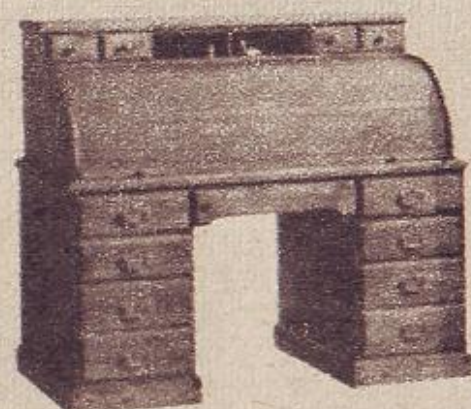
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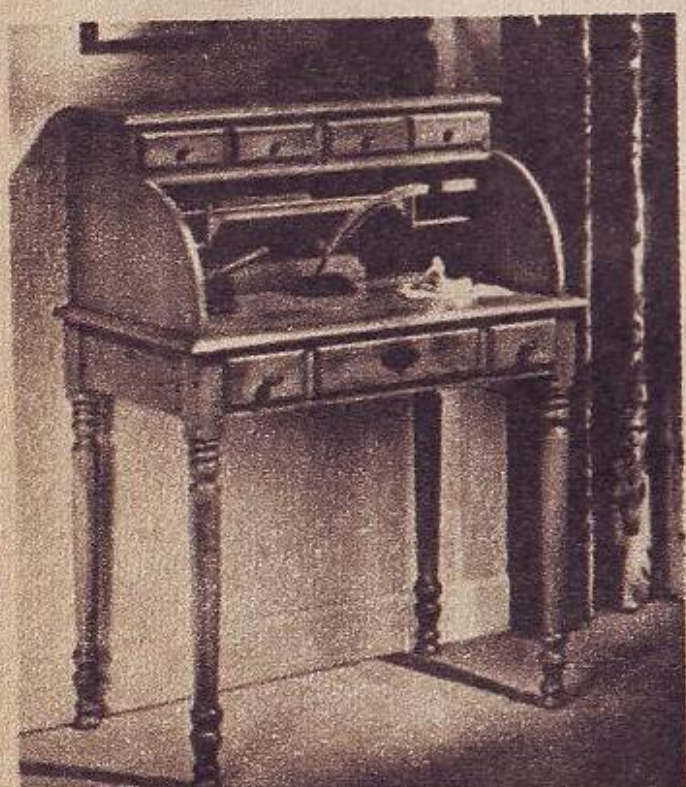
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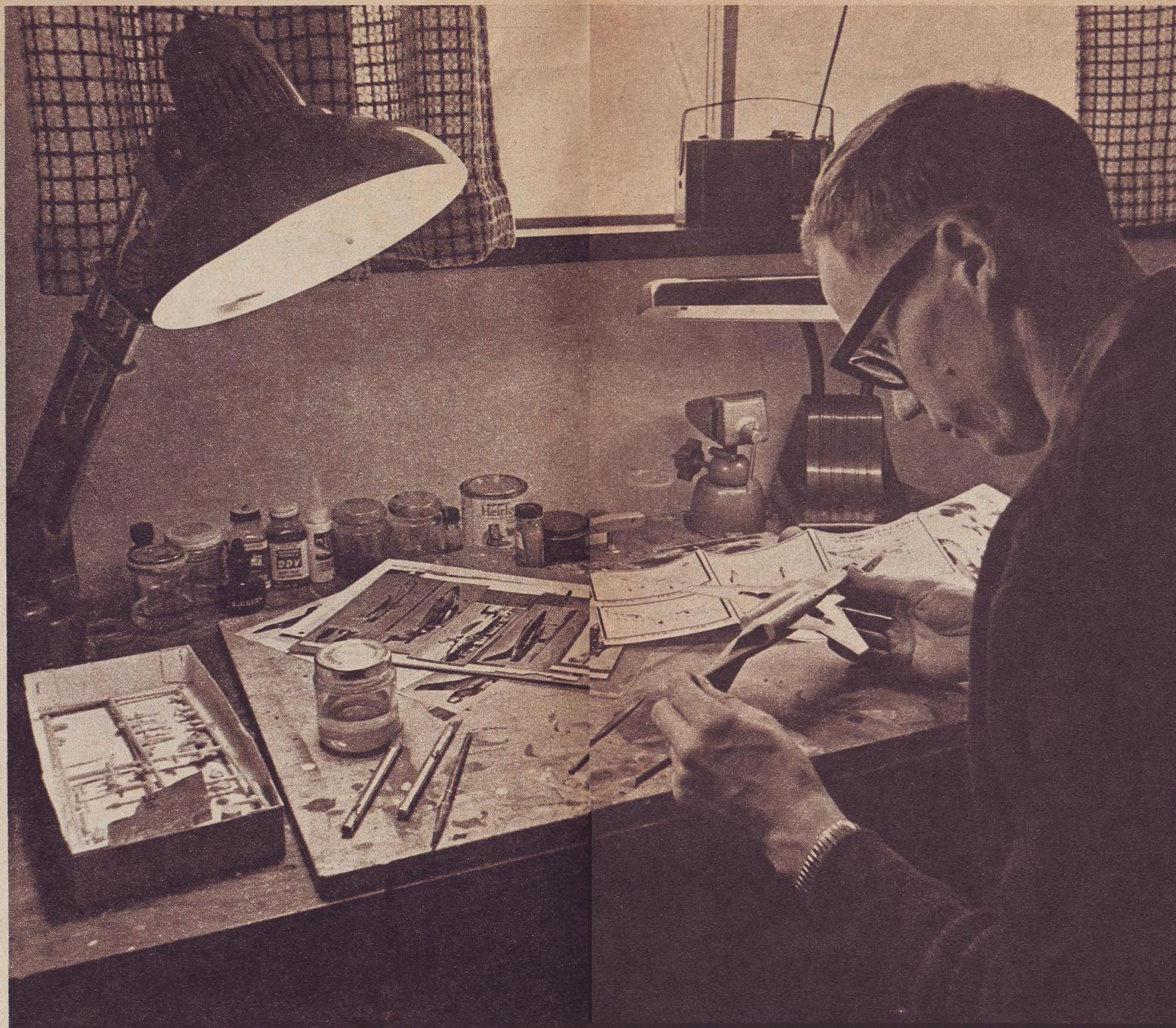


Above — John Greer held his modified Junkers 88R with a Focke Wulf 190A8 riding on top. Code-named Mistal during World War II, the combination was used for long-range reconnaissance with the Junkers also being used as a flying bomb, the Focke Wulf releasing it and flying back to base for another mission. Below—John Neiswanger, 15, studied some of Jim Schubert's miniature soldiers.

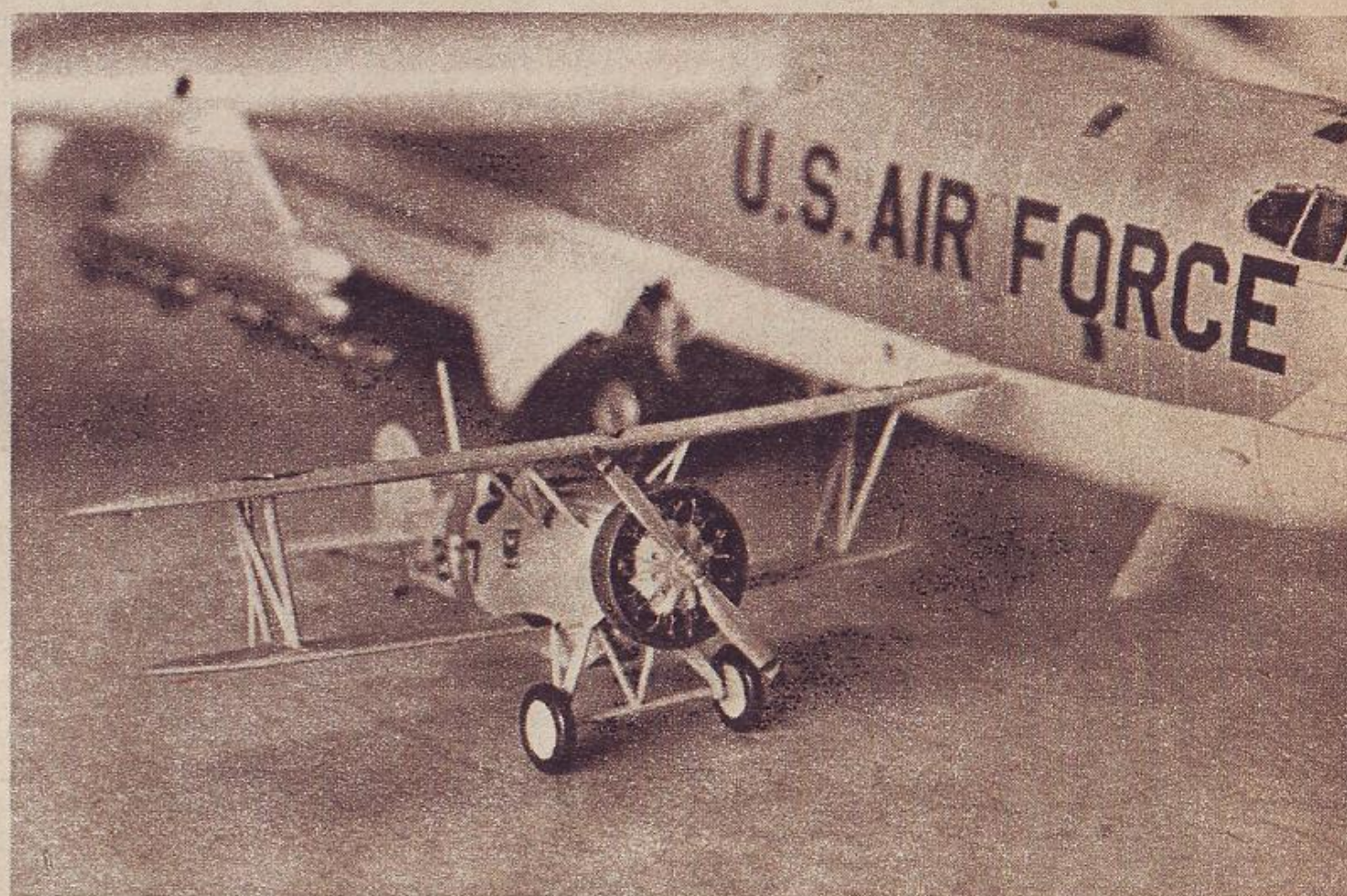


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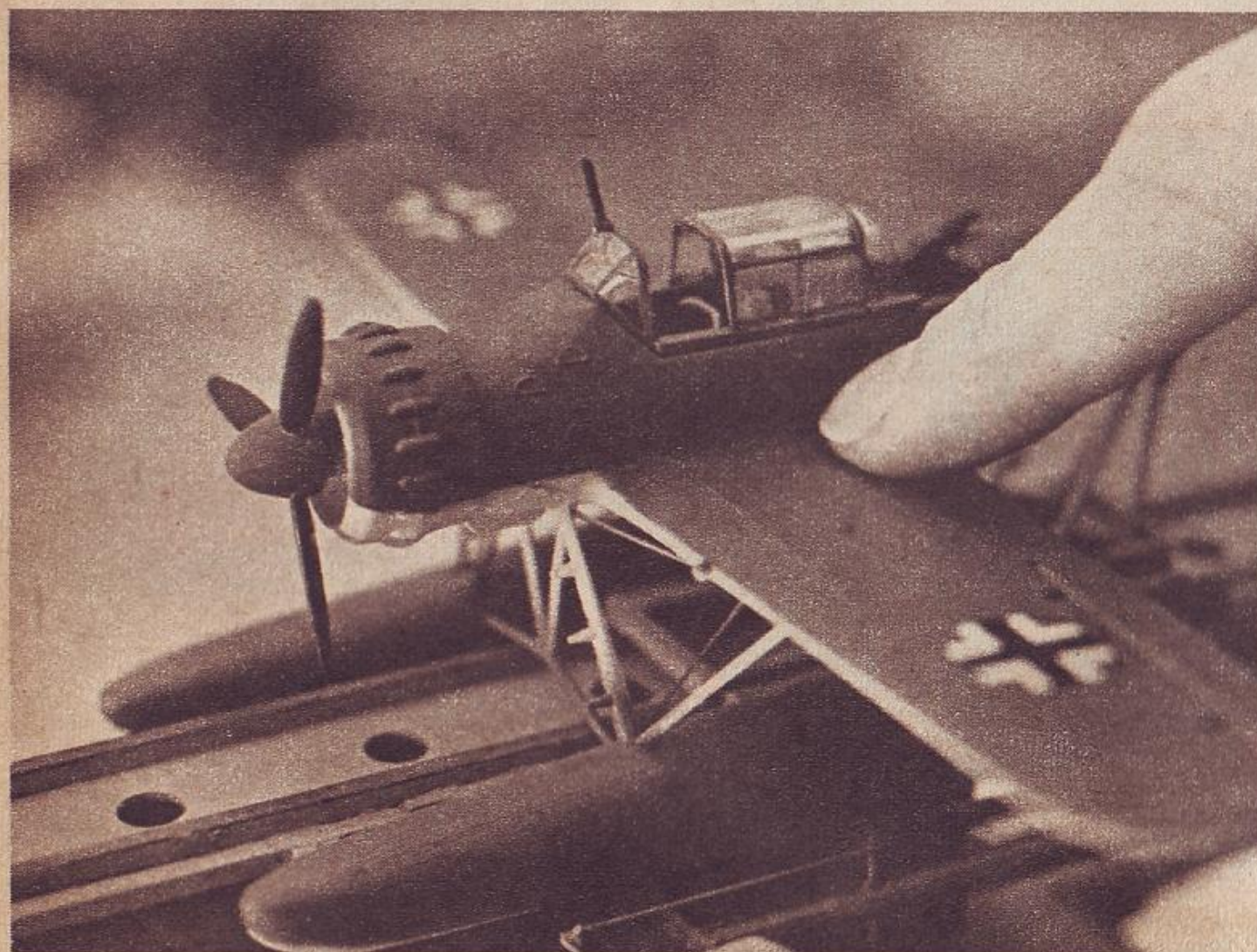
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Norman Filer assembled a model jet fighter from a kit imported from Japan. Directions are in Japanese, but standard construction techniques are used on all the model-plane kits.



Above—A model of the pre-World War II Boeing F4B4 fighter was dwarfed by another product of The Boeing Co., a B-52D jet. Right—A German World War II Arado AR196 float plane model was ready for catapult launching.



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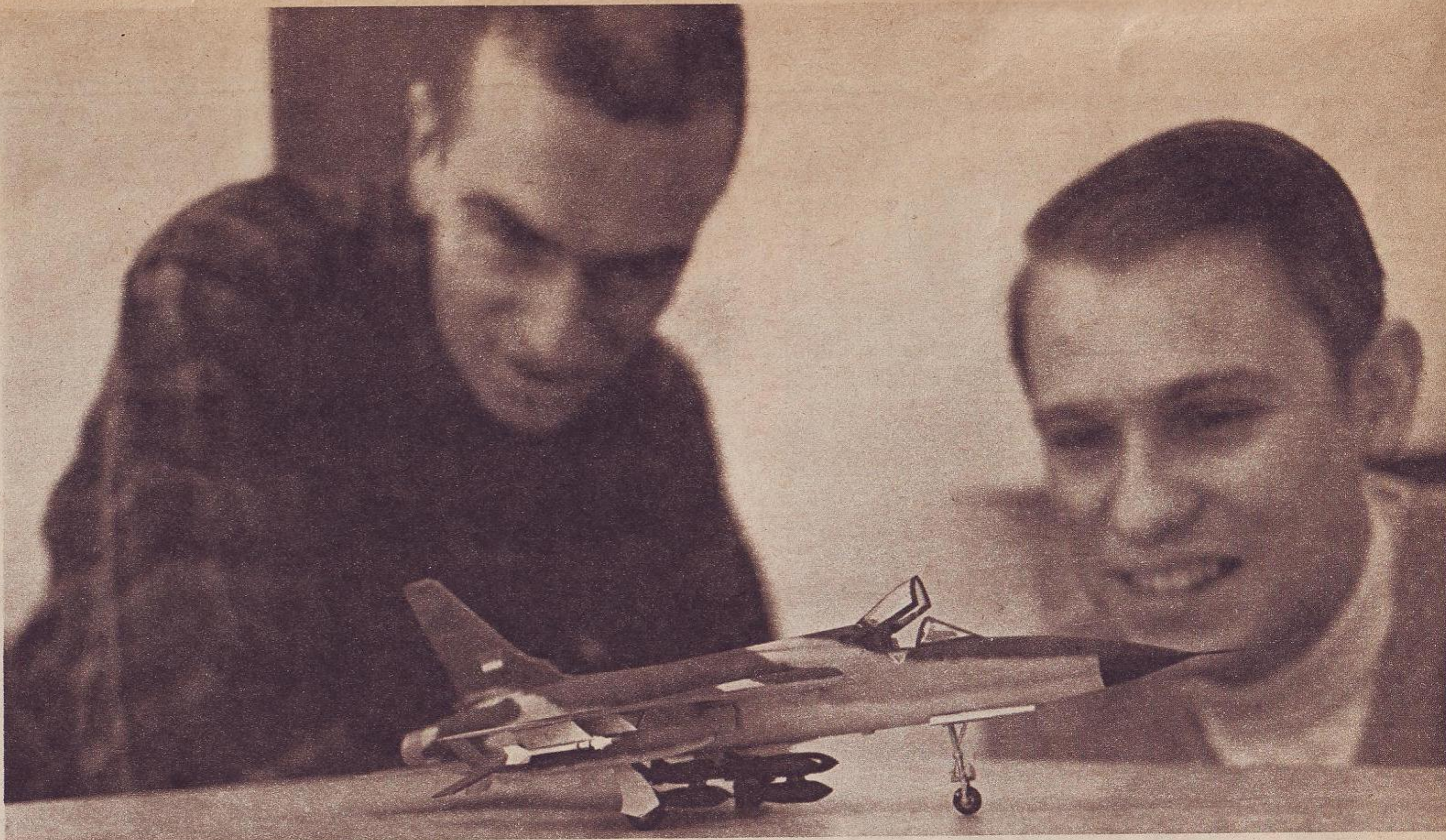
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John Greer, left, and Jerry Nilles examined a needle-nosed F105D, which was complete in detail as to Vietnam camouflage and its load of armaments.



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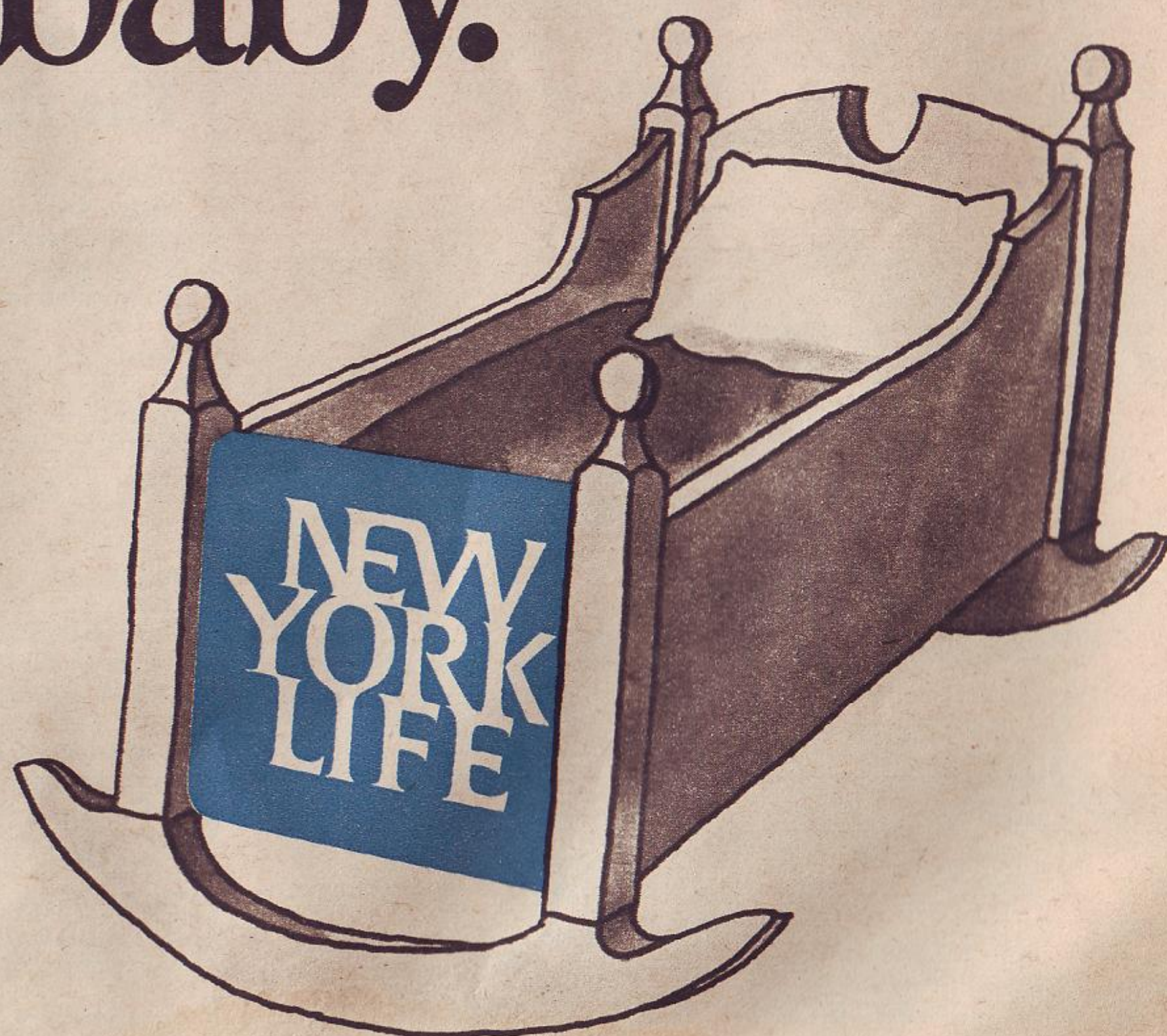
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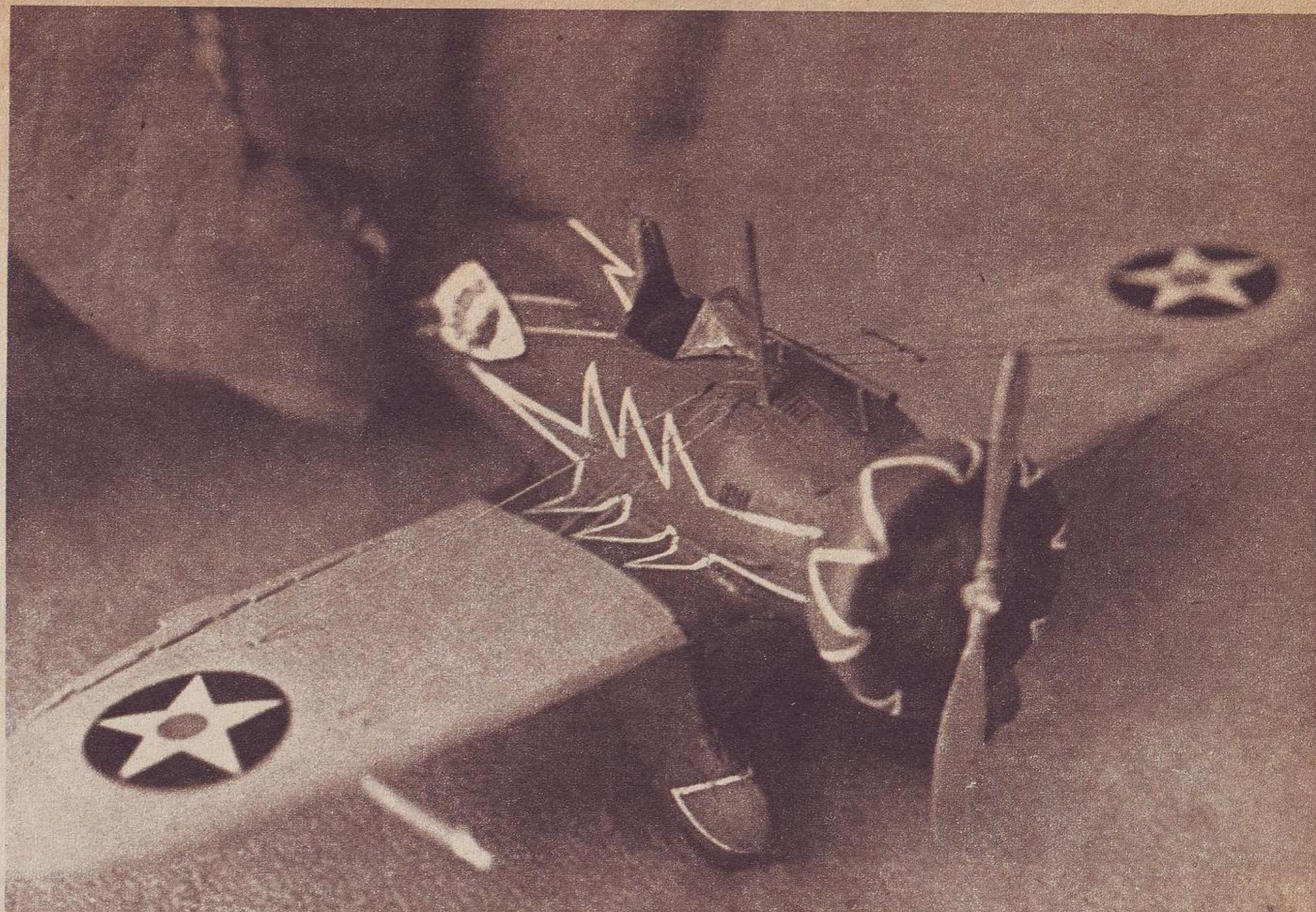
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The meticulous work in applying the authentic colors to the models is shown above in Bill Weaver's model of a World War II B-25 and, right, in a Boeing P-26 fighter. When decals are not available, the markings are painted on by hand with brush.



Above—The steps involved in creating a miniature are shown by these plastic soldiers. At left was the toy having no particular regimental identification. The paint had been stripped off at center and at right was the finished model—a Scots Guards non-commissioned officer of the 1930 period. Right—Norm Filer, left, and Jerry Nills discussed the construction of a Japanese World War II plane.

