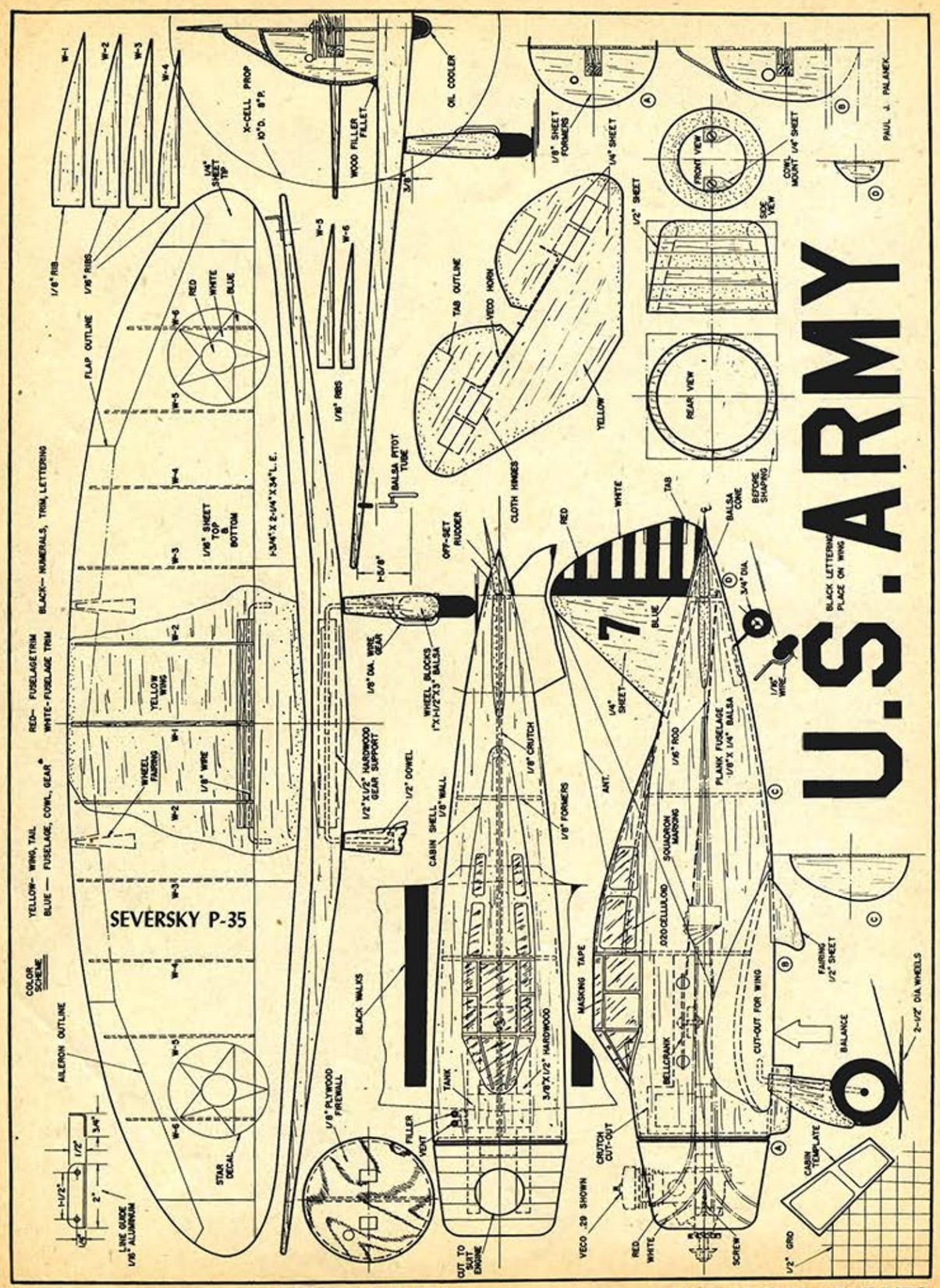

SEVERSKY P-35

by Paul Palanek

● It was in 1937 that the Seversky Aircraft Corp., predecessor of the Republic Aviation Corp., produced an airplane, a hot little fighter design—the P-35. This design exhibited many "firsts." It was the first military all-metal single-seater with retractable undercarriage, capable of speeds close to 300 miles an hour.

Uncle Sam placed a number of contracts for a good number of this fast design. Aside from filling military orders, many were sold to European countries. A number of these metal beauties found their way into civilian hands and were designated ED-1. Some were flown by such famous names as: Jimmy Doolittle, Frank Fuller, and Jacqueline Cochran—all of Bendix and Thompson trophy fame.

The P-35 carried a retractable landing gear that left enough of the wheels protruding from the wheel wells to allow a safe emergency landing, with little damage. Boeing used it on their early 247-D airliners and on the B-17. Douglas also featured it on their immortal DC-3's. To follow the genealogy of this design into the last European campaign, we find the famous Republic P-47. The P-35 is its predecessor.

Our model is designed to a 1" scale for Class "B" or Class "C" control-line flying. It requires little or no beefing

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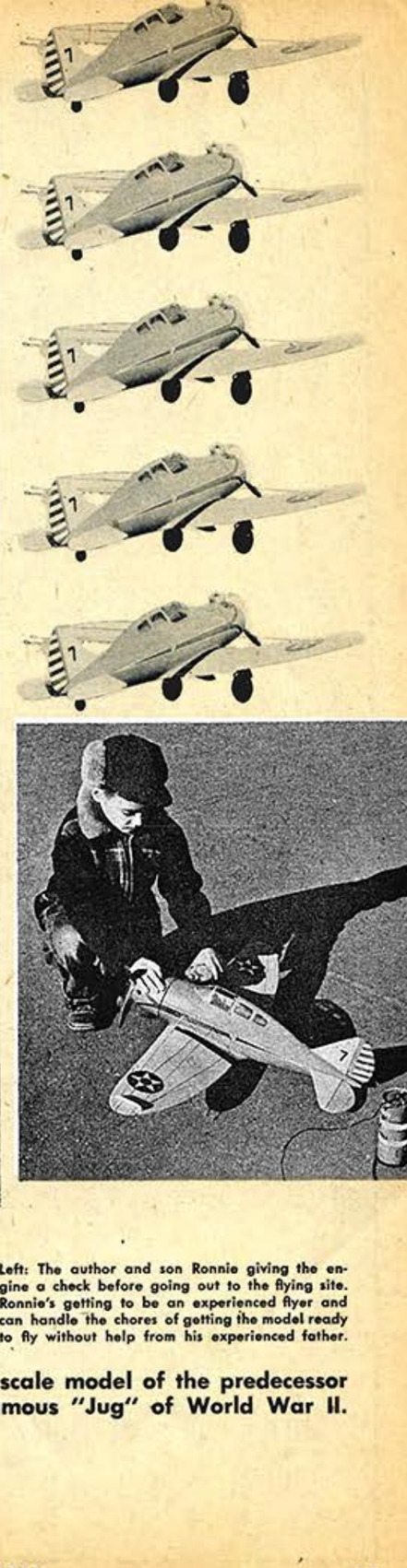

Left: The author and son Ronnie giving the engine a check before going out to the flying site. Ronnie's getting to be an experienced flyer and can handle the chores of getting the model ready to fly without help from his experienced father.

This is a scale model of the predecessor of the famous "Jug" of World War II.