

# SLYBIRD MOTH

THIS SUPERB RESTORATION RECALLS A PERIOD DURING WORLD WAR TWO  
WHEN THE USAAF FLEW TIGER MOTHS  
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There are many de Havilland Tiger Moths flying and under restoration around the world, and the vast majority appear in period civilian schemes or military markings that represent the Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force use of the stalwart trainers. Lots of Tiger Moths in Australia and

New Zealand are painted in RAAF and RNZAF schemes. Few are camouflaged — many favoring the all-over Trainer Yellow scheme (like all RCAF Tiger Moths) or the post-war RAF silver with yellow identification bands. Numerous air forces used the Tiger, but few would list the United States Army Air Force on the list of obvious operators.

At the start of the war in Europe,

aircraft were in limited supply, especially to the 8th Air Force who had arrived in Europe with aircraft that could be transited across the Atlantic, but they were short of trainers and even some fighters as the convoys were prioritizing



The Moth was assigned to the 353rd Fighter Group "Slybird" and was used as a hack by the unit's pilots.



Large American insignias outlined in yellow were applied to the top wing. An interesting fact is that the bottom wing used camouflage colors slightly lighter than the top wing.



On a beautiful English spring day, Clive poses the restored Tiger Moth for the author. It is always a bit tricky when it comes to exact camouflage colors on aircraft "loaned" to the USAAF. The paint could have come from either USAAF or RAF stocks.