

Kawanishi N1K1-J (George)

The Kawanishi N1K1-J (known to the Allies as *George*) was a highly effective Japanese fighter of World War II. It suffered from several problems and was replaced by the refined N1K2-J late in the war.

The Kawanishi N1K1-J was a landplane version of the earlier N1K1 floatplane fighter. Development of the landplane version commenced in late 1941 and the prototype made its first flight on 27 December 1942. It proved to be a formidable fighter, the equal of most American fighters, but had several problems so a simplified version, the N1K2-J, was developed to replace it.

This model represents a Kawanishi N1K1-J of Air Group 341 which operated in the Leyte and Philippines areas, then in the southern area of Kyusho to intercept American Task Forces aircraft, the unit lost all its aircraft in the Battle for Lingayen Gulf January 1945.

Data: *Engine* one Nakajima NK9H radial piston engine of 1473kW. *Wing span* 12.00m. *Length* 8.88m. *Maximum take-off weight* 4,321kg. *Maximum speed* 658km/h. *Range* 1,078m. *Armament* four 20mm cannon and 500kg of bombs. *Crew* one.

Tamiya 1/48 kit painted in Modelmaster enamels with Eduard seat belts and salt weathering, completed by Wayne in about 2000.



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