

Up An' Atom

Hal Olsen Nose Art of WWII

Hal Olsen during WWII join the Navy in 1943 and bought \$50.00 worth of artist supplies. His plan was to paint landscapes in this free time. Hal arrival in Tinian and was assigned to repair auto-pilot instruments on the B-29's that were based there. The Island was still getting air attacks by the Japanese. During one of these attacks a supply hut got hit by a bomb, destroying the painting supplies of one of the resident artists that was under great demand to paint nose art on the planes. Hal soon was in the nose art business and was mixing flesh tones by the gallon among the many other colors he needed to keep up with the demand. He painted over a hundred nose art of life-size ladies on the sides of planes during the war.

After the war Hal studied at Boston School of Fine Arts and became a technical illustrator for the Los Alamos Laboratory. After he retired to Albuquerque he recreated some of his more famous nose art ladies in a series of paintings, but with a little more proper attired clothing. The book "Up an Atom" is the story of Hal and many of his paintings are reproduced in color along with his experiences during the war.

