



One of the 91st Group's most well known planes, Outhouse Mouse, was originally assigned to the 457th Bomb Group at Wendover in December 1943. Three months later the unnamed plane was transferred in England to the 91st on 12 March 1944.

Apart from the plane's superbly executed nose art, another by the talented Tony Starcer, Outhouse Mouse's greatest claim to fame was being the first heavy bomber to receive an attack by a German jet. The incident occurred during a mission on 16 August to the Siebel aircraft factory at Halle. Initially knocked from the formation in a determined attack by an FW 190 and an ME 109 which had also wounded two crew members, Outhouse Mouse then came under attack from the rear. The incoming fire from the rocket plane, an ME 163 Komet, was successfully avoided by quick action by the pilots who rocked their plane up and down and jiggled from side to side. A second ME 163 slid up beside Outhouse Mouse for a full two minutes but carefully kept just out of range. Its audacity was short-lived because two Mustangs pounced on the strange-looking jet and shot it down without further ado.

Tony Starcer based his famous nose art on Outhouse Mouse from the popular *Tom and Jerry* cartoon shorts. The brown and white mouse, leaning against the yellow and red latrine hut on a light blue background circle, had to be repainted at least once due to battle damage. Outhouse Mouse went on to complete a stunning 139 missions, including 12 trips to Berlin, before returning to the USA on 25 May 1945.

