

## **PIPER CUB (GRASSHOPPER, L-4), WWII**

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L-4 planes in action.

**NOTE: L-4 & L-5 Identification Markings**

Organic aircraft (L-4's) were assigned to most field artillery headquarters. An infantry division was authorized 2 for each of its field artillery battalions. Additionally, Army Air Force squadrons of L-5 aircraft were attached to field armies. Unfortunately, sources here did not reveal unit identification marks.

Nothing was found in Army Regulations 850-5, Aug 1942, pp. 6-9 and later edition of Feb 1944, pp. 24-27. No mention in War Dept Circulars 141 (12 May 1942), 191(15 Jun 1942), 273 (18 Aug 1942), and 350 (28 Aug 1944).

Pertinent snippets do appear in After Action Report, Third U.S. Army, August 1944-May 1945 (#03-30.1945/2). Vol. II of this published report includes an artillery section in which "squadron code markings" are mentioned. It also cites a theater-level directive that enjoined subordinate headquarters from prescribing "any marking for field artillery or liaison aircraft." See p. 2, VIII and XIV. Furthermore, photo evidence suggests a two-letter code may have served as unit identifiers. Then-contemporaneous photos of L-4's in the Mediterranean and European areas show two large letters conspicuously marked on fuselages.