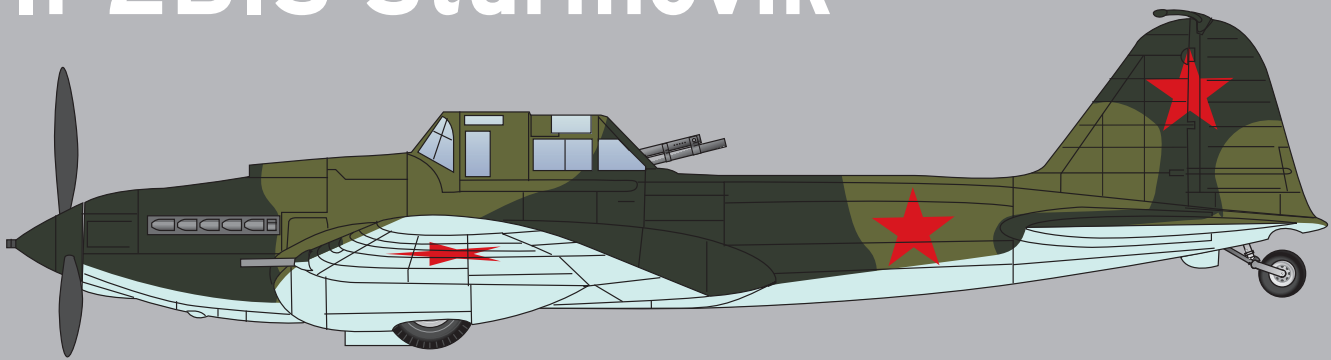


SH 1-010-14

Ilyushin Il-2BIS Sturmovik



Prototype with short nose

The Il-2 Sturmovik was the first ever armored Attack aircraft, which earned it the Name "Flying Tank". It was the backbone of Soviet close air support and feared among German ground troops. Its excessive production made it the most-produced military aircraft in history.

The Il-2BIS was an early prototype for an Il-2 with rear gunner. It flew first in 1942, but was not ordered into production in favour of a less sophisticated version, which later became the Il-2M