

Alternate names provided for open (two-part) or closed (single part) entry door.

*Detail Note*  
Zary's aircraft was fitted with the beam approach antenna.

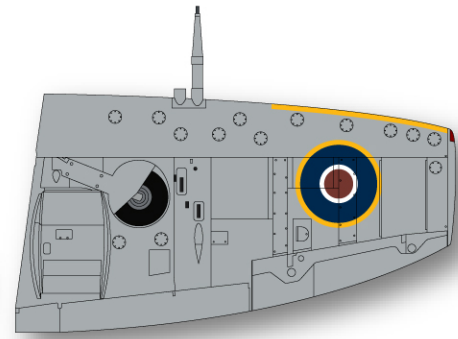
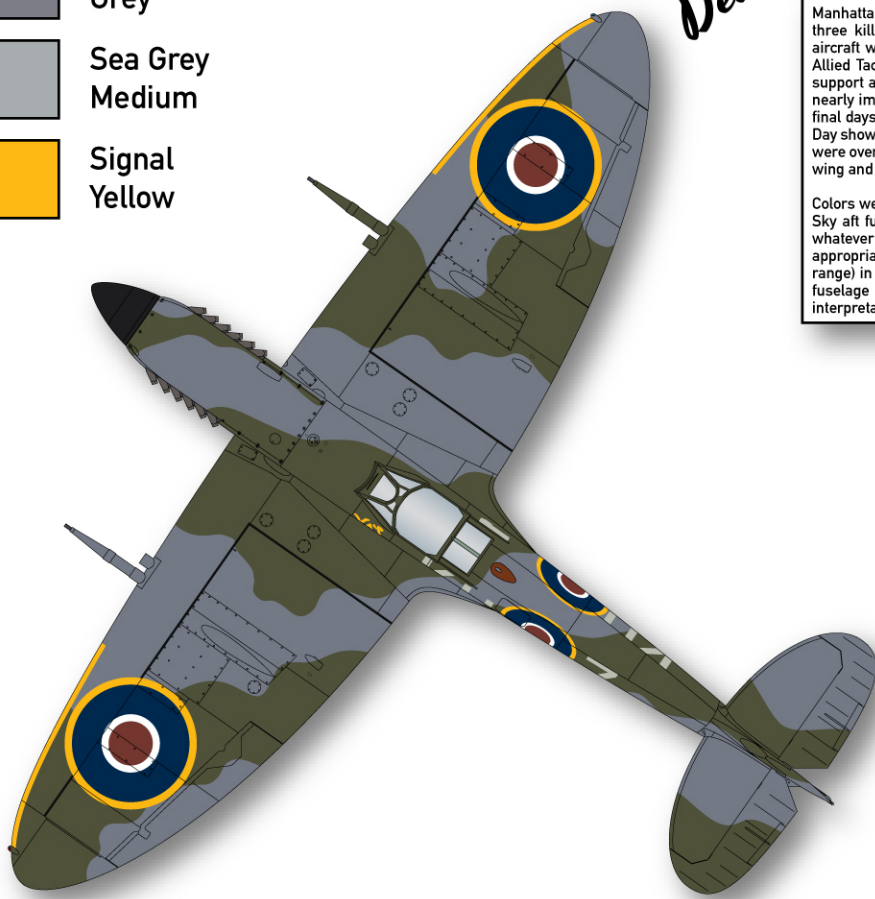
Apply serial number first, then align code letters to cutouts in serial. Note panel line landmarks for serial placement.

- Dark Green
- Ocean Grey
- Sea Grey Medium
- Signal Yellow

*Detail Note*

Manhattan native Hank Zary (known as "The Chief") scored his final three kills of the war in this Spitfire Mk.XVIe. We have shown the aircraft with both standard and clipped wing tips. As part of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, 403 Squadron was engaged in both ground support and air-to-air missions. From the available photographs it is nearly impossible to say with certainty which tips it carried during the final days of the war. One very clear photo taken immediately after VE Day shows clipped tips, but it is possible they were fitted after hostilities were over. Otherwise the airframe is fairly standard for a XVIe, and had wing and fuselage mounted bomb racks.

Colors were standard RAF day fighter camouflage. The factory applied Sky aft fuselage band was overpainted, and we can see no evidence whatever of the serial in any photos, but we have depicted it in an appropriate stencil style (as seen on other aircraft in the same serial range) in case you want to apply it. To our eyes the name "Val" on the fuselage is yellow, but we have provided it in white as well. Color interpretation from black & white photos is always a matter of opinion.





Hank Zary, the son of Polish immigrants, was born Henry Paul Zarytkiewics in Manhattan on 23 November 1918. He joined the RCAF in February 1941, graduating from pilot training in November that year. He served with the RCAF in North Africa and Europe, ending up as Commanding Officer of 403 Squadron in 1945.

Zary was universally known as "The Chief" within the squadron. He scored victories with both 421 and 403 Squadrons, opening his score on 10 July 1943. His final kill came on 21 April 1945. His final tally at war's end was 5 confirmed kills. He returned to Canada after the war, where he died of pleurisy in 1946. On 14 January 1947 Zary was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Spitfire TB752 KH-Z came to 403 Sqn RCAF on 19 April 1945 having spent a brief time with 66 Squadron as LZ-F. Although she arrived late to the party TB752 had a brief but illustrious career. On the 21st Squadron Leader "Hank" Zary was flying her when he claimed a Bf109 destroyed. On the 25th Flying Officer David Leslie (Wolfville, Nova Scotia) destroyed what was probably and Fw189 recce aircraft. The first of May saw Robert Young in the cockpit of KH-Z as he claimed an Fw190D. Two days later Flying Officer Frederick Town flew her to down an He111K. On the 7th of May F/O Robert Shannon flew TB752 when his bombs found the stern of ship. And on the last day of the war Shannon flew her again as 403 Squadron escorted Dakotas to Copenhagen.

We are unable to determine conclusively whether TB752 had standard or clipped wings during wartime. Pictures of other 403 Squadron Spitfires show standard wingtips up until the end of the war. Immediately following the surrender pictures 403 Squadron Spitfires show clipped wings as well as tri-colored spinners and the codes have a thin black outline -- as she appears today at the History Museum at RAF Manston.



TB752 immediately post-war. The codes now have a thin black outline, and the spinner has been repainted with red/white/blue stripes.