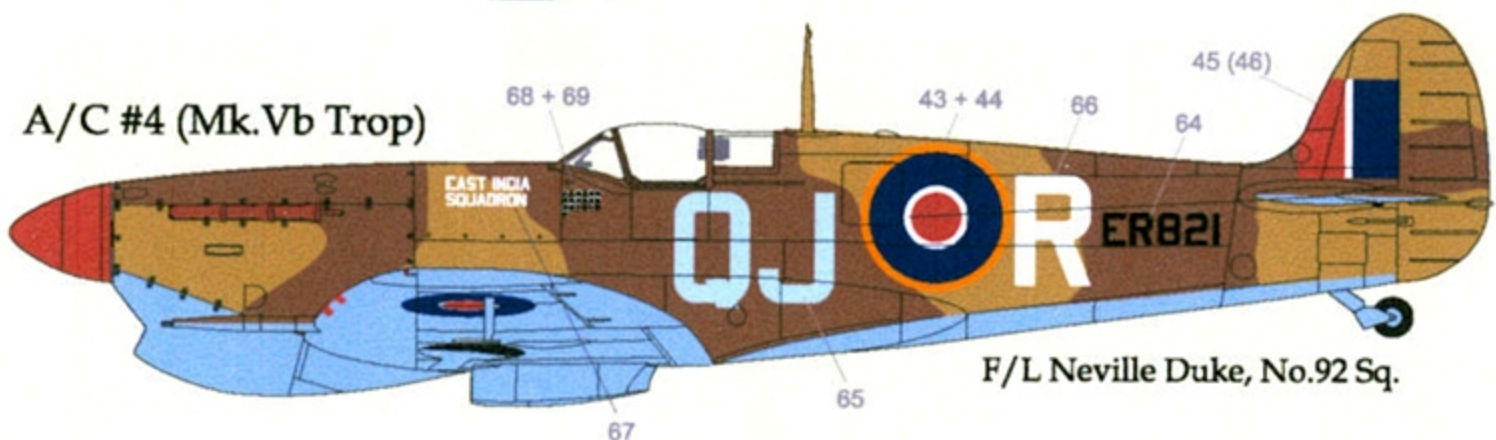
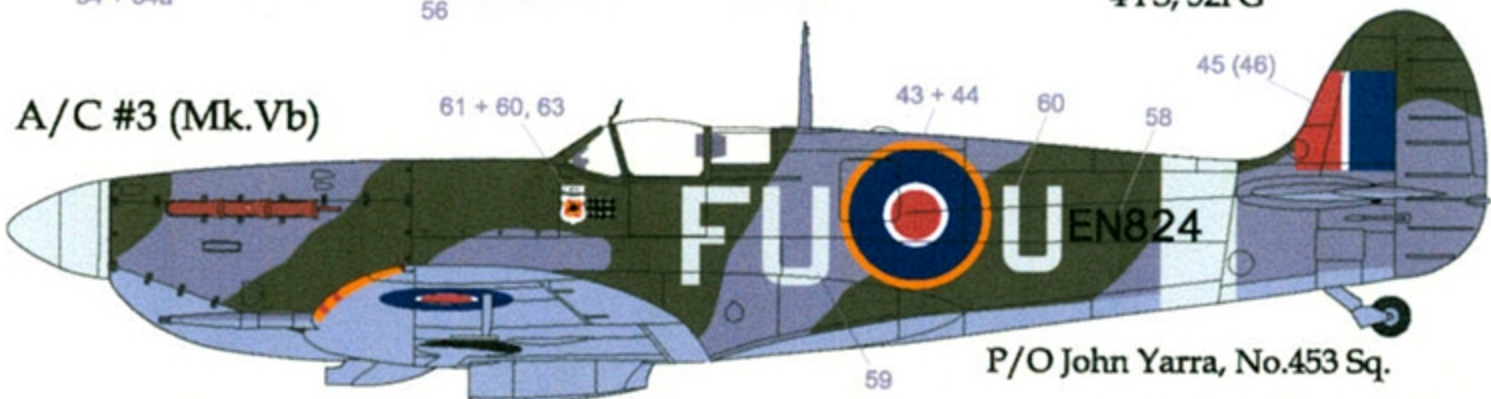


Lifelike Decals

Limited Edition!

48-025 Supermarine Spitfire Part 3



Recommended kits: Tamiya Spitfire Mk.Vb/Mk.Vb Trop

Lifelike Decals wants to hear from you and your input.

Fax: +81-743-73-5526, e-mail: lifelike_d@kcn.jp

<http://lifelikedecals.sakura.ne.jp>

A/C #1 Spitfire Mk Vb, AD196, flown by Sergeant Jack Evans of No. 71 (Eagle) Squadron, Debden AB, August 1942.

Ref. 1 was the first to introduce the scull marking of this A/C, but it was ref. 2 that showed the full marking of this A/C, regrettably though without any further photos. It is camouflaged in Dark Green/Ocean Gray/Medium Sea Gray with Sky code, fuselage band and spinner. But judging from the only known photo its spinner back-plate is painted in an unknown darker color (probably Dark Green). The illustration in ref. 2 shows red eye socket, but we do not see any tonal difference between the socket and nose hole or highlight of bones. It is fitted with a Rotol wooden 3 blade propeller. The existence of back mirror is conjectural.

The career of Sergeant Jack Evans (American) is not well known, but he was killed in action flying this A/C on August 27 1942.

A/C #2 Spitfire Mk Vb or Vc, serial unknown, flown by F/O James Montgomery of 4FS/52FG, Palermo/Sicily, August 1943.

This is the first "Impatient Virgin" flown by F/O Montgomery (ref. 3), and his second is featured in 48-026. The early stage photo (ref. 3) shows yellow lettering, but in August 1943 it was changed to black/white lettering with unique style of Y, and his name was applied forward of and the staffel emblem below the windshield. There seems to be a circle behind the emblem, but apparently not in Dark Green color seen on several A/C. We judged this is in Middle Stone color. Though its caption says it is Mk IX, rounded air-intake below the right wing clearly shows it is Mk V retrofitted with Mk IX exhaust pipes. The photo shows only the nose to windshield area, thus wing type (Vb or Vc) or code is not clear. It is our guess that this is Vb, and its code (WD-A) may be with thin black outline sometimes observed with other A/C of this unit. Back mirror is not fitted.

Its camouflage pattern of Dark Earth/Middle Stone/Azure Blue is not clear except the area photographed. Almost all A/C of this unit had different pattern, so the pattern shown here is just our guess. Its spinner should be red with white back-plate. Montgomery did not score more than 5 victories.

A/C #3 Spitfire Mk Vb, EN824, flown by

A/C #3 Spitfire Mk Vb, EN824, flown by P/O John W. Yarra of No. 453 (Australian) Squadron, Martlesham Heath AB, December 10, 1942.

The kill marks and personal emblem of this A/C is rather well known (ref. 4), but it is ref. 5 that established its identity as that of P/O John William Yarra with two new photos (hitherto not published again, one with his younger brother Robert, and another is his former mount, NED IV, of No. 185 Sq). The twelve kill marks shows his last score (and 2 probables and 5 damages), and his personal emblem is a black/white child face on a red/orange cross. Its camouflage pattern seems to be typical of European Day Fighter scheme, but the higher contrast between the two upper surface colors indicates these as Dark Green and Mixed Gray.

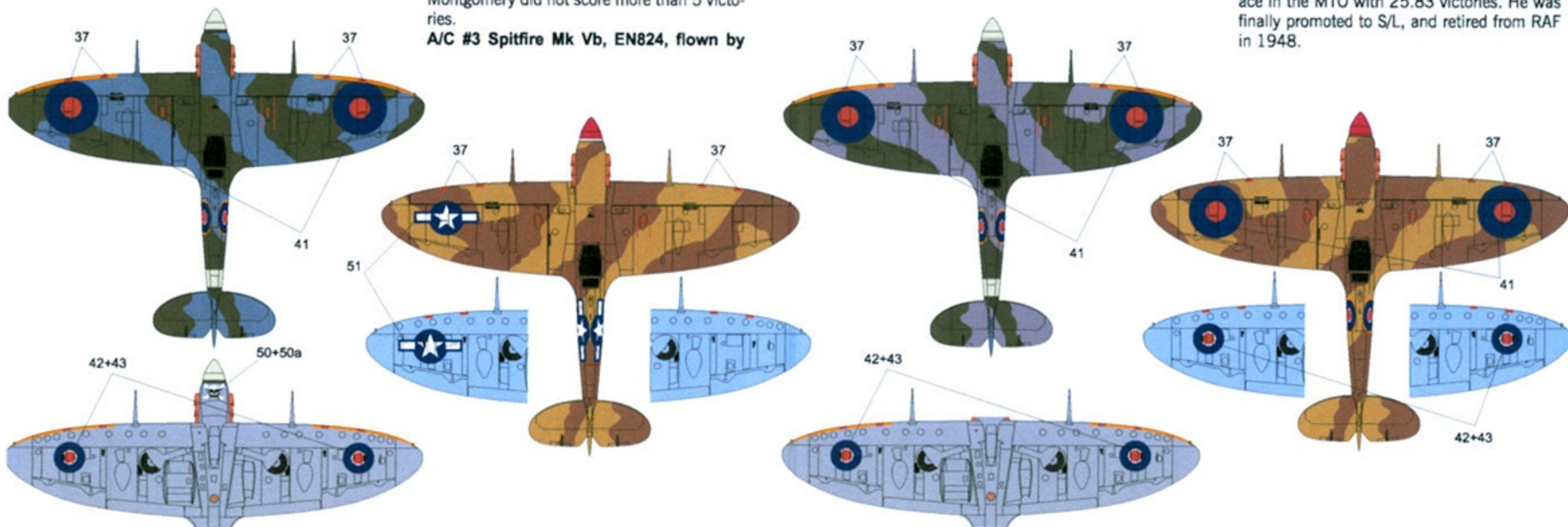
Yarra was killed in this A/C by an anti-aircraft fire from a flakship in the Dutch port Vlissingen on December 10, 1942 as the B Flight leader. His brother Robert was also KIA on April 14, 1944 by flak near Abbeville/France.

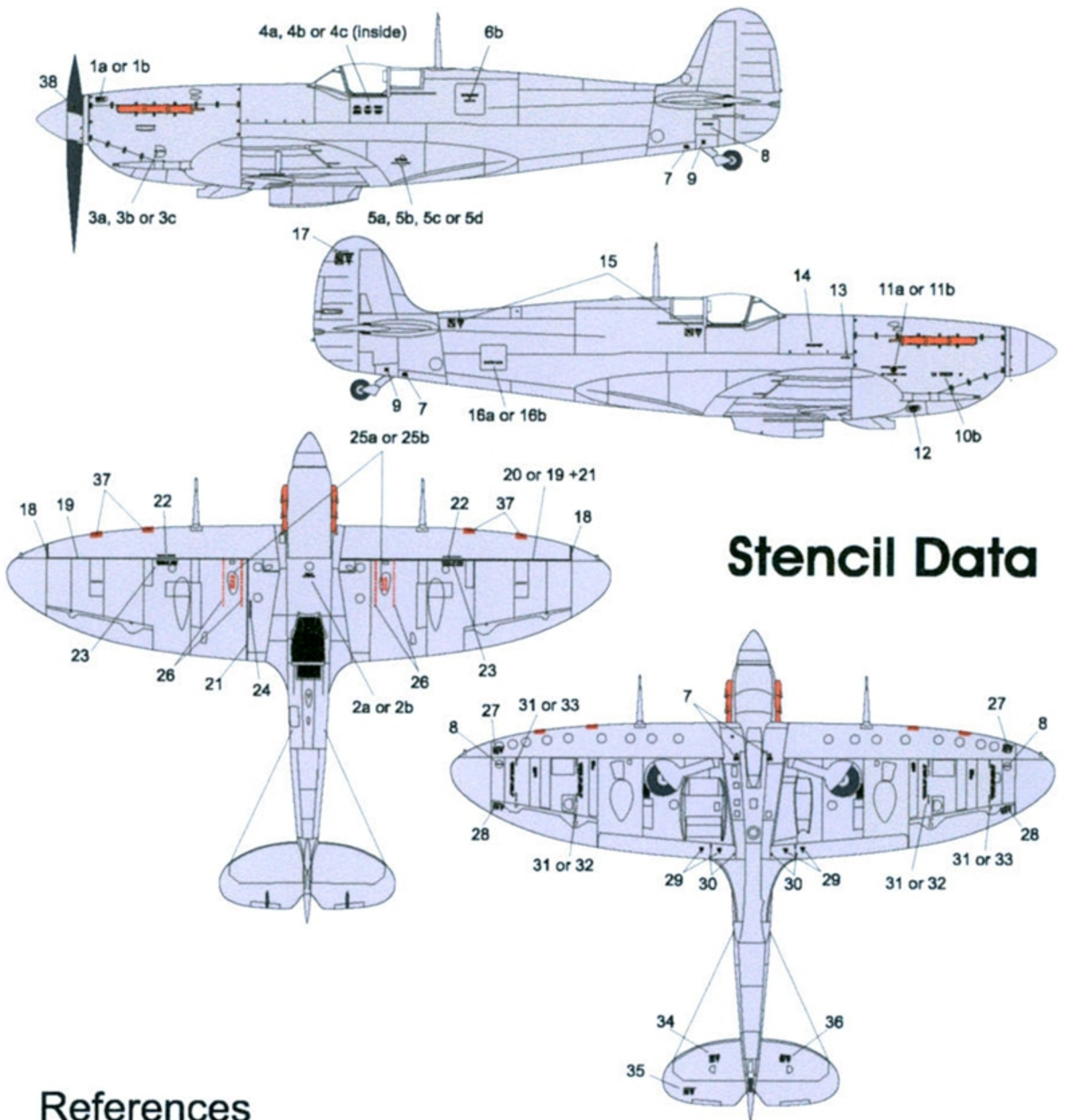
A/C #4 Spitfire Mk Vb, ER821, flown by F/L Neville Duke of No. 92 Squadron, Libya, March 1943.

The only photo of this A/C with 19 kill marks is shown in ref. 4, but its fuselage sides are regrettably out of photo, and its serial is not shown. This A/C is said to be ER220, but ER220 (coded QJ-R with 12 kill marks) was damaged by a nose-down landing accident as shown in ref. 6. According to Mr. Bob Swaddling's information (from 92 Sq. Operational Record Book) it is ER821, which is in accordance with the Duke's victory record (ref. 7). With this A/C Duke scored 2 MC202s and 5 Bf109s from March 1st to 7th.

It is camouflaged in Dark Earth/Middle Stone/Azure Blue with red spinner. The photo of ER220 shows light colored QJ code with white R. Reference 8 shows light gray QJ code, but in North African theater gray code is very rare. We are sure its code is light blue. Propeller is DeHaviland, and back mirror is not fitted.

Duke is the 11th ranking ace of RAF with 27.9 kills, and the highest scoring British ace in the MTO with 25.83 victories. He was finally promoted to S/L, and retired from RAF in 1948.





Stencil Data

References

1. American Spitfire Camouflage and Markings part 2 (Classic Warbird Series #4, Paul Ludwig & M. Laird, Ventura Publications, 2001).
2. No. 17 (Eagle) Squadron 1940-1942, (Philippe Listemann, Aero Editions, 2005)
3. Spitfires and Yellow-tail Mustangs (T. Ivie & P. Ludwig, Hikoki Publications, 2005)
4. RAF & RCAF Nose Art in World War II (C. Simonsen, Hikoki Publications, 2001)
5. Aero Review (Czech magazine) #64, 1997.
6. Desert Air Force at War (C. Bowyer & C. Shores, Ian Allan Publishing, 1981).
7. Aces High Vol. 2 (Christopher Shores, Grub Street Publishing, 1999)
8. Osprey Aces 16, Spitfire Mk V Aces (A. Price, Reed Books, 1997)

Special thanks to Mr. Robert Swaddling for his information on A/C #4, and to Mr. Martin Ferkl for the translation of ref. 5.