

LOW ALTITUDE HUNTERS:

Spitfire Mk.Vc



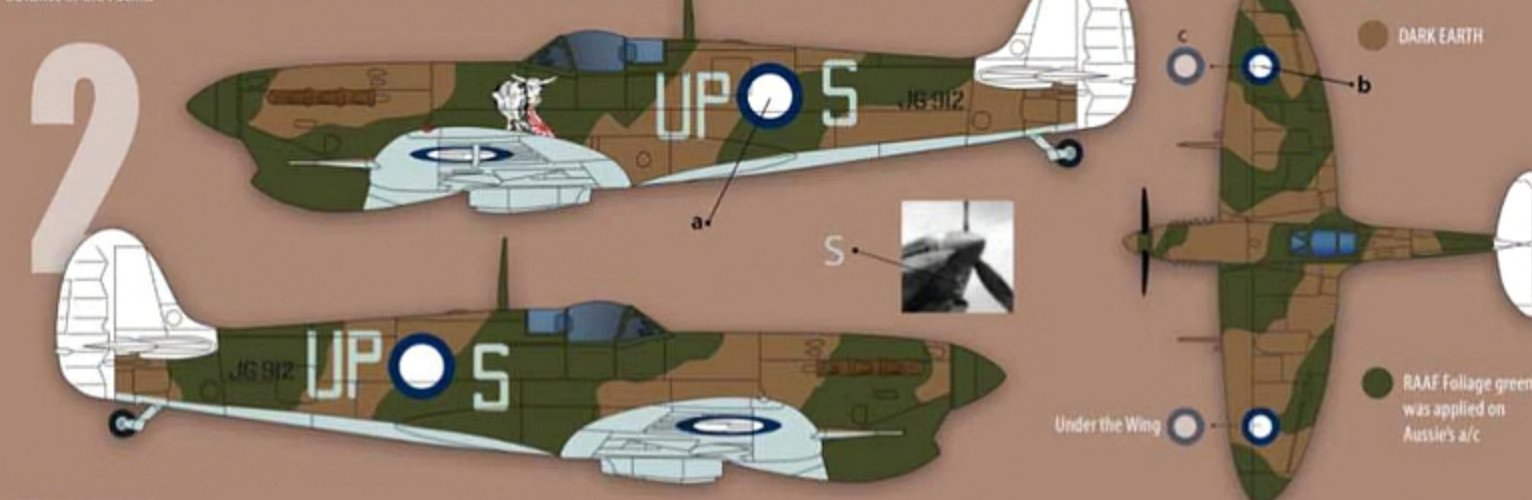
EP305, Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop, RAF 229 Sqn (X-YE), Comiso, Italy July 1943

Spitfire EP305, originally built as a Mk.Vb, spent time in Malta in January of 1942 before later being stationed in Africa in late 1943. It was written off in September of 1943 after suffering an engine fire on takeoff the month prior.



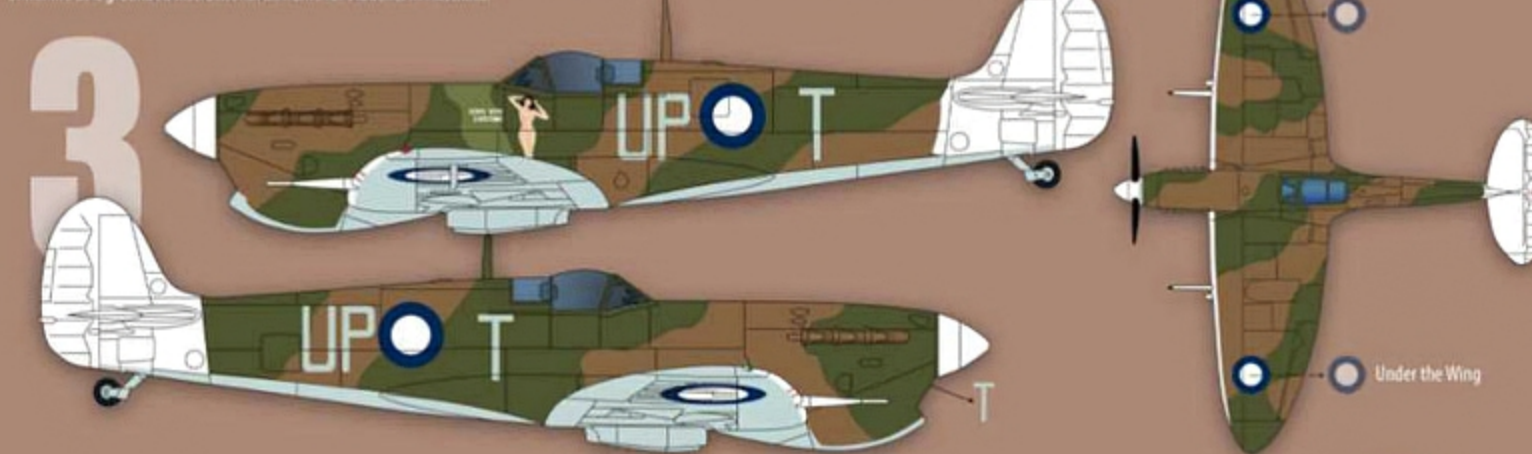
JG912, Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop, RAAF 79 Sqn (UP-S), Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, October 1943.

Spitfire JG912, later known as AS8-180, was assigned to No. 79 Squadron, RAAF, in May of 1943. Tasked with providing higher-altitude escort for RAAF Kittyhawks doing ground attack, No. 79 Squadron and their Spitfire Vc's would continue island hopping towards Japan during the allied advance in the Pacific.



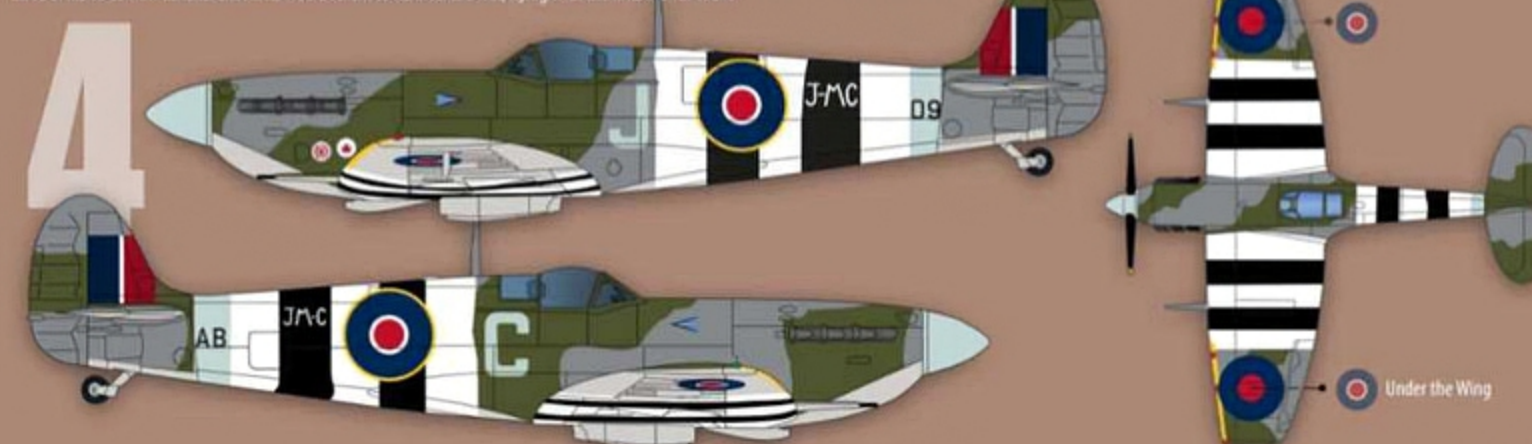
AS8-137 (EE835), Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop "Down With Everything", RAAF 79 Sqn (UP-T), 1st Lt. David Hopton, Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, October 1943.

Spitfire AS8-137 (formerly RAF EE835) was flown by First Lieutenant David Hopton with RAAF 79 Squadron after it's arrival in April of 1943. Hopton would fly this aircraft until it received damage due to the belly tank not separating properly in November of 1943. After repairs, the paint was stripped off the aircraft and it was redeployed to RAAF 85 Squadron in October of 1944. She would be damaged in a landing accident in February of 1945, and would spend the rest of her life as a grounded instructional airframe for students in Australia.



AB509, Spitfire Mk.Vc, RAF 1 Sqn (J-M-C), 142nd Wing, Wing Commander John M. Checketts, RAF Friston, May-June 1944.

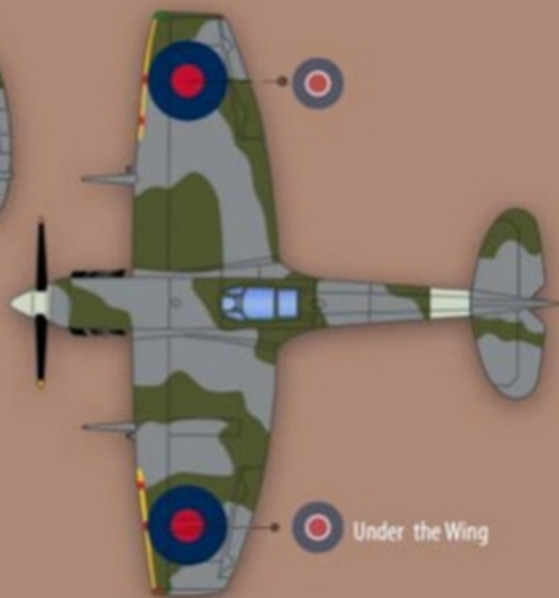
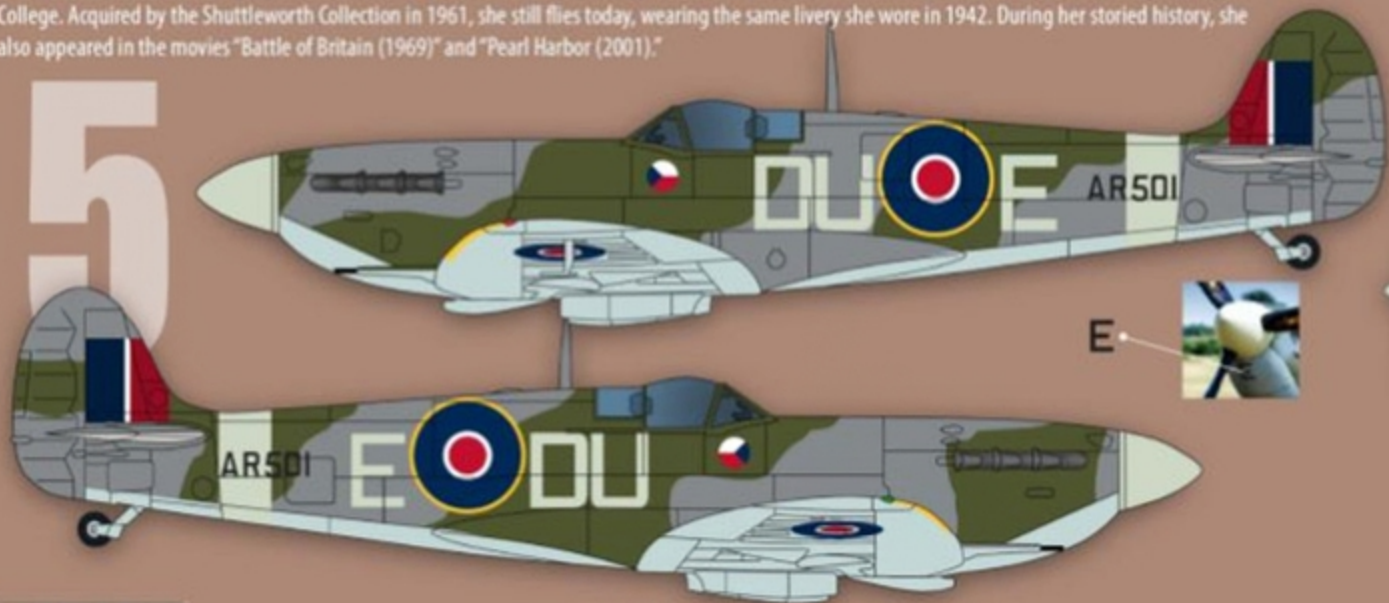
John M. Checketts, of New Zealand, would join the RAF in July of 1941 after flight training in NZ. Checketts had raised his total to 10 confirmed kills before he was shot down over France on September 6th, 1943. He was under the care of the French Resistance for seven months before returning to the UK, where he joined RAF 1 Squadron, later becoming the Wing Commander of the 142nd Wing. In this position, he would score the last three of his 13 confirmed kills. Checketts would return to NZ after the war, flying with the RNZAF until 1954.



AR501, Spitfire Mk.Vc, RAF 310 (Czech) Sqn (DU-E), RAF Duxford, 1942-1943.

Spitfire AR901 was assigned to RAF 310 (Czech) Squadron in 1942, and shortly thereafter, began flying escort missions for USAAF heavy bombers, including the 91st Bomb Group's "Memphis Belle." She survived the war, and after being stricken off charge, became an instructional airframe at Loughborough College. Acquired by the Shuttleworth Collection in 1961, she still flies today, wearing the same livery she wore in 1942. During her storied history, she also appeared in the movies "Battle of Britain (1969)" and "Pearl Harbor (2001)."

5



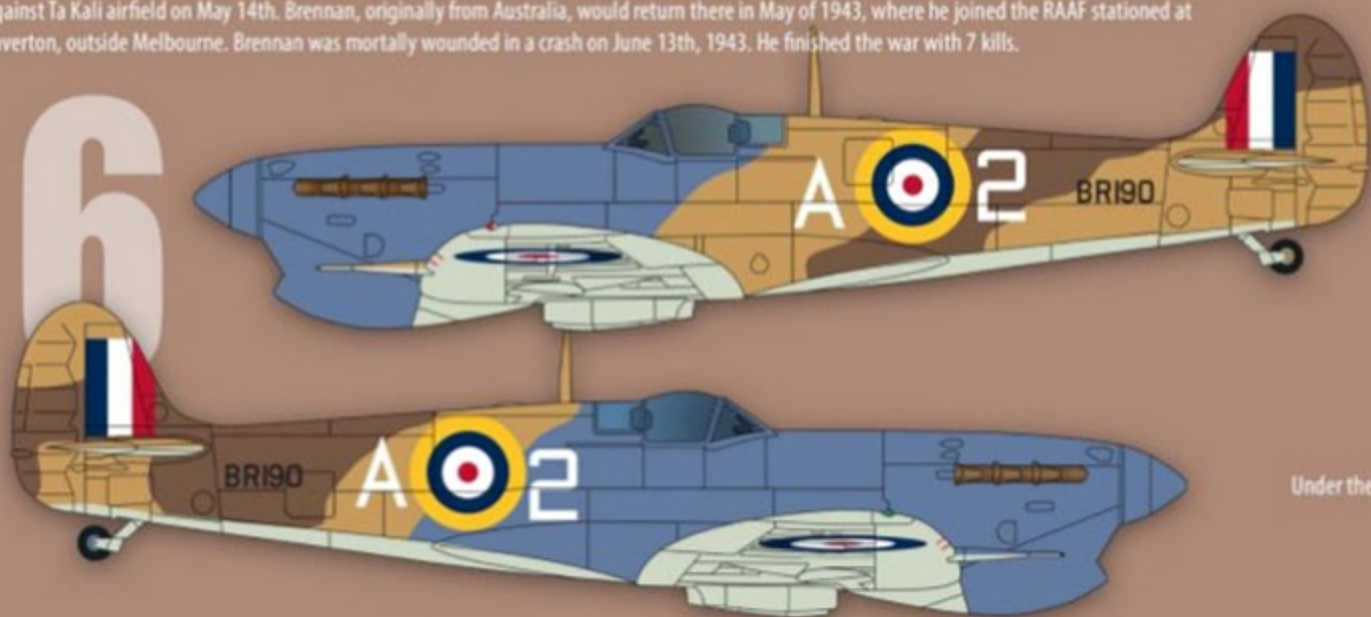
Sprue
Part 1

BR190, Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop, RAF 249 Sqn (A-2), Flt. Sgt. Paul Brennan, RAF Ta Kali, Malta, April-May 1942.

Spitfire BR190 was originally delivered to Malta aboard the USS Wasp, where its original desert camouflage was partially overpainted with "Malta blue" (Dark Mediterranean Blue). Flt. Sgt. Brennan would down a Bf 109 on May 5th, 1942 in this bird, however it was soon destroyed 9 days later, during a Luftwaffe bombing raid against Ta Kali airfield on May 14th. Brennan, originally from Australia, would return there in May of 1943, where he joined the RAAF stationed at Laverton, outside Melbourne. Brennan was mortally wounded in a crash on June 13th, 1943. He finished the war with 7 kills.

Douglas
Models
Distributors

6



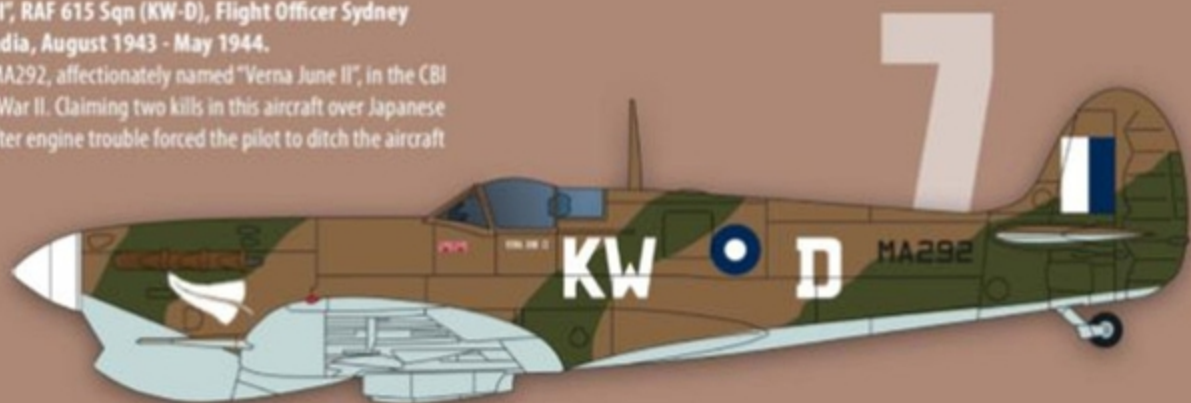
Under the Wing

- RAF Dark Earth
- RAF Middlestone
- Malta Blue

MA292, Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop "Verna June II", RAF 615 Sqn (KW-D), Flight Officer Sydney "Lawrence" Weggery (RNZAF), Bengal, India, August 1943 - May 1944.

Flight Officer "Lawrence" Weggery would fly MA292, affectionately named "Verna June II", in the CBI (China-Burma-India) campaign during World War II. Claiming two kills in this aircraft over Japanese aircraft, it would be lost on May 24th, 1944 after engine trouble forced the pilot to ditch the aircraft into a paddy field outside of Pallel, India.

Under the Wing

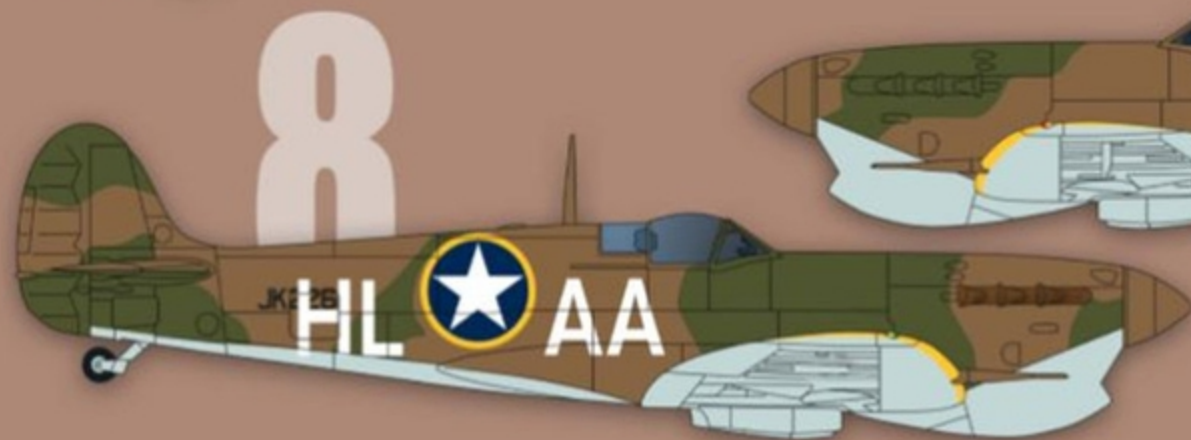


JK226, Spitfire Mk.Vc Trop, 31st Fighter Group, 308th Fighter Squadron, Tunisia, Mid-1943.

When the 31st Fighter Group was first deployed to World War II, they traded in their P-39's for Spitfire Mk.Vb's and were stationed in England under VIII Fighter Command in June of 1942. After flying missions over Europe, the 31st was transferred to XII Fighter Command and deployed to North Africa in October of the same year. There, the 31st would receive some Spitfire Mk.Vc's, including JK226, with improved armament. In March of 1944, the 31st FG would trade in their Spitfires for P-51 Mustangs, thus ending one of the longest - tenured deployments of the British Spitfire under USAAF pilots.

Spone
Brothers
Models

Douglas
Models
Distributors



zotzviper@gmail.com

Thanks again Dennis Sauter!