## Spitfire Mk.XVI Bubbletop

8285

# BRITISH FIGHTER 1:48 SCALE PLASTIC KIT



#### intro

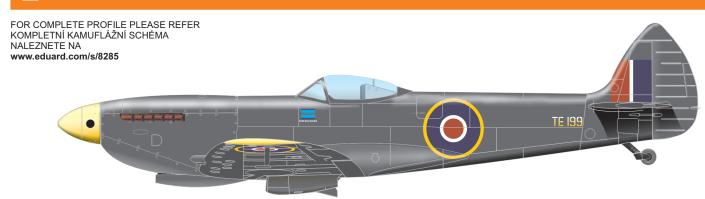
#### **ProfiPACK**

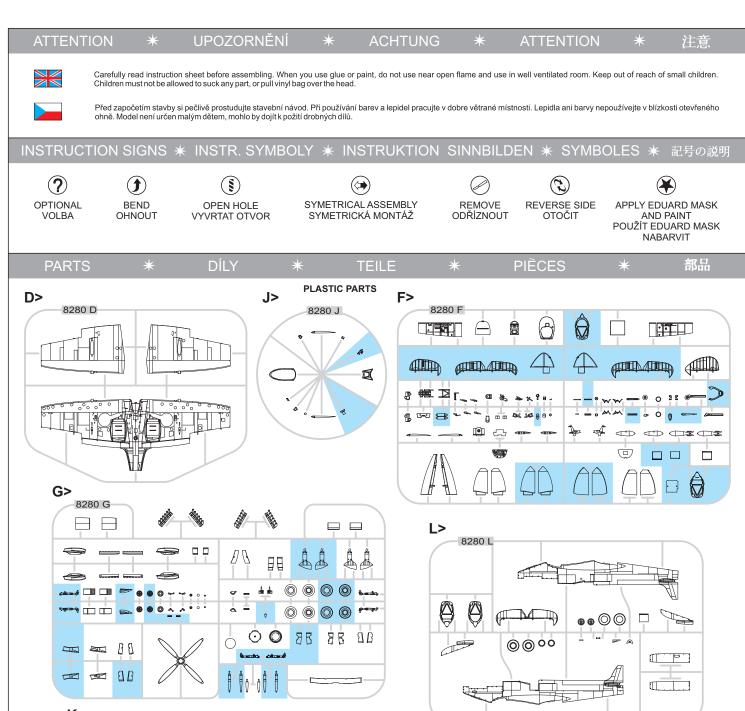
In September 1941, a hitherto unknown German radial engine fighter appeared in the west European sky. The new airplane was superior to British fighters, most distressingly to the Spitfire Mk. V. The German design was soon recognized as the Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A. The losses suffered by the RAF over western Europe rose rapidly and the crisis was serious enough that the RAF ceased the majority of daytime operations in November, 1941. The next attempt to resume these types of sorties was made in March 1942. Loss rates remained unacceptably high and the RAF was forces to stop ops once again. All this was thanks to the Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A. The first response to the new German weapon was the Spitfire Mk.VIII, but the design changes were so complex that initiating timely production was not possible. In June, 1942, a German pilot landed by mistake on a British airfield delivering a completely intact Fw 190 fighter into RAF hands. Comparative trials between the Focke-Wulf and Spitfire Mk.V began almost immediatelly. These mock encounters confirmed the situation over the front – the chances of a British fighter surviving an encounter with the Fw 190 were slim. The only British fighter aircraft deemed suitable to oppose them were the Spitfire Mk. VII and VIII powered by the Merlin 61 engine. As mentioned above these were some time away of being ready for series production. But there was another way of getting a powerful fighter quickly - by mating the Merlin 61, with its two-stage supercharger, with the fuselage of the Spitfire Mk.Vc. Two Mk.Vc airframes, AB196 and AB197, were selected for this purpose and were strengthened with modified longerons to accommodate the more powerful and heavier engine. The example was finished on February 26 and the second on March 27, 1942. Flight trials were successful and the order for series production was issued almost immediately. Series production began in June 1942 and the first Mk.IXs found their way to No. 64 Squadron in July. Performance improved significantly in comparison to the Mk.V. A top speed of 409 mph at 28,000 feet was higher by 40mph, and the service ceiling rose from 36,200 to 43,000 feet. The Mk.IX could climb at 4,000 feet per minute. The RAF finally had a fighter aircraft capable of opposing the Fw 190 A. Three main versions of the Mk IX were produced. The F.IX was powered by the Merlin 61 and was the only version on the assembly line in early 1943. The next version was the LF Mk.IX powered by the Merlin 66. This engine was designed to do its best at low altitudes. The third version, manufactired along with the LF, was the high-altitude HF Mk.IX with the Merlin 70. The majority of Mk.IX's manufactured were equipped with the so-called 'C' wing. Four 20mm cannon or two 20mm cannon and four .303 machine guns could be installed in the wings. From 1944, the strengthened 'E' wing was produced. Four .303 machine guns were replaced with two .50 heavy machine guns. Bomb racks for 250lb bombs were fitted under each wing typically. The Mk.IX became the second most numerous version of the Spitfire with a total of 5653 examples being built. The Mk.IX began to replace the Mk.V from June, 1942. Thanks to the new fighter, the RAF was ready to fight against the Luftwaffe over occupied Europe. Spitfire Mk.IXs served with the RAF to the end of war. In the postwar era, foreign air forces flew this version as well. Czechoslovak, Norwegian, Danish, and Canadian air forces operated numbers of Mk.IXs and they were not alone. Spitfires would find themselves in combat again. Czechoslovakia sold its Spitfire Mk.IXs to Israel in 1948 and these aircraft formed the backbone of the newly born Israeli air force in the fight against their Arab neighbours. The Merlin 266, built under licence by the Packard Motor Company, powered the next version, the Spitfire Mk.XVI. The early production examples were – except for the engine - almost identical to the Mk.IX. Late production blocks had bubble canopies and redesigned rear fuselage.

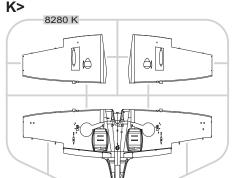
#### úvodem

V září 1941 se na evropské obloze objevil dosud neznámý německý stíhací letoun poháněný hvězdicovým motorem. Nová stíhačka měla nad britskými, zejména Spitfirem Mk.V, zřetelnou převáhu. V německé konstrukci byl záhy rozpoznán Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A. Ztráty RAF nad západní Evropou začaly rychle narůstat až to té míry, že britské letectvo muselo v listopadu 1941 zastavit většinu denních operací nad evropským kontinentem. Pokus o spuštění tohoto typu bojových letů byl uskutečněn v březnu 1942. Počty ztrát však byly opět neúnosné, což znovu vedlo k jejich zastavení. Vše díky Focke-Wulfům Fw 190 A. Prvním pokusem o odpověď na novou německou zbraň se stal Spitfire Mk.VIII, avšak komplexní přístup ke změnám konstrukce letounu způsobil, že nebylo možné jej dostat do sériové výroby v dostatečně blízkém časovém horizontu. V červnu 1942 přistál jeden z německých pilotů omylem na britském letišti a předal tak do britských rukou nepoškozený Fw 190 A. Srovnávací zkoušky Focke-Wulfu a Spitfiru Mk. V začaly téměř neprodleně. Cvičné souboje plně potvrdily situaci na frontě – šance britské stíhačky přestát setkání s Fw 190 bez úhony nebyly vysoké. Jediné britské stíhačky schopné postavit se plnohodnotně německému typy byly Spitfiry Mk.VII a Mk.VIII poháněné motorem Merlin 61. Jak však bylo poznamenáno výše, nedalo se čekat, že v dohledné době dospějí do fáze sériové výroby. Byla zde však ještě jedna cesta jak získat dostatečně výkonnou stíhačku - zabudovat Merlin 61 s dvoustupňovým kompresorem do základního draku Spitfiru Mk.V. Pro tento experiment byly vyčleněny dva draky, AB196 a AB197. Prošly zpevněním, aby mohl být zastavěn výkonnější a těžší motor. První z nich byl dokončen 26. února, druhý pak 27. března 1942. Letové testy proběhly natolik úspěšně, že byla objednána sériová výroba. Ta se plně rozběhla v červnu 1942 a první Mk.IX se u bojové jednotky, No. 64 Squadrony, objevily v červenci. V porovnání s Mk.V se výkony znatelně zvýšily. Maximální rychlost byla v 28.000 stopách vyšší o 40 mph, operační dostup se zvýšil z 36.200 na 43.000 stop. Mk.IX mohl stoupat rychlostí 4000 stop za minutu. RAF tedy konečně dostalo stíhačku, kterou mohlo směle postavit proti Fw 190 A. Vyráběny byly tři hlavní verze Mk.IX. Verze F Mk.IX byla poháněna motorem Merlin 61 a z montážní linky sjížděla až do počátku roku 1943. Na ni navázala LF Mk.IX poháněná motorem Merlin 66 a určená k operacím v nižších výškách a HF Mk.IX s motorem Merlin 70 konstruovaným naopak pro výškové lety. Většina Mk.IX byla vyrobena s křídlem typu C. V něm mohla být instalována výzbroj složená ze čtyř kanonů ráže 20 mm nebo ze dvou kanonů ráže 20 mm a čtyř kulometů ráže 0,303 palce. V roce 1944 se objevilo zpevněné křídlo typu E. Čtveřice 0.303 kulometů byla nahrazena dvojicí kulometů ráže 0.50 palce. Pod každou polovinou křídla byly standardně namontovány závěsníky pro 250lb pumy. Verze Mk.IX se stala druhou nejpočetnější verzí Spitfiru s 5653 vyrobenými kusy. Mk.IX začaly nahrazovat Mk.V v červnu 1942. Díky nové stíhačce byla RAF opět schopná bojovat proti Luftwaffe nad okupovanou Evropou. Ve své výzbroji si typ ponechala až do konce války. Po ukončení bojů se verze dostala i do výzbroje dalších letectev. Československé, norské, dánské, kanadské a další letectva používala desítky Mk.IX. Spitfiry Mk.IX se však do bojů dostaly i v této době. Československo prodalo své Spitfiry v roce 1948 do Izraele, kde se v bojích s arabskými sousedy staly páteřním typem nově vznikajících izraelských vzdušných sil. Na verzi Mk.IX navázala verze Mk.XVI. První vyrobené kusy se od Mk.IX lišily zejména použitým motorem, kdy letoun poháněl Packard Merlin 266, což byl v licenci vyráběný Merlin 66. Pozdější produkce také dostala snížený hřbet trupu a přepracovaný překryt kokpitu.

#### TE199, Flown by Air Officer Commanding, No. 21 Group RAF, Swindersby Air Base, 1948







C81

C12

C47

RUSSET

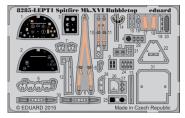
OLIVE DRAB

CLEAR RED









ALUMINIUM

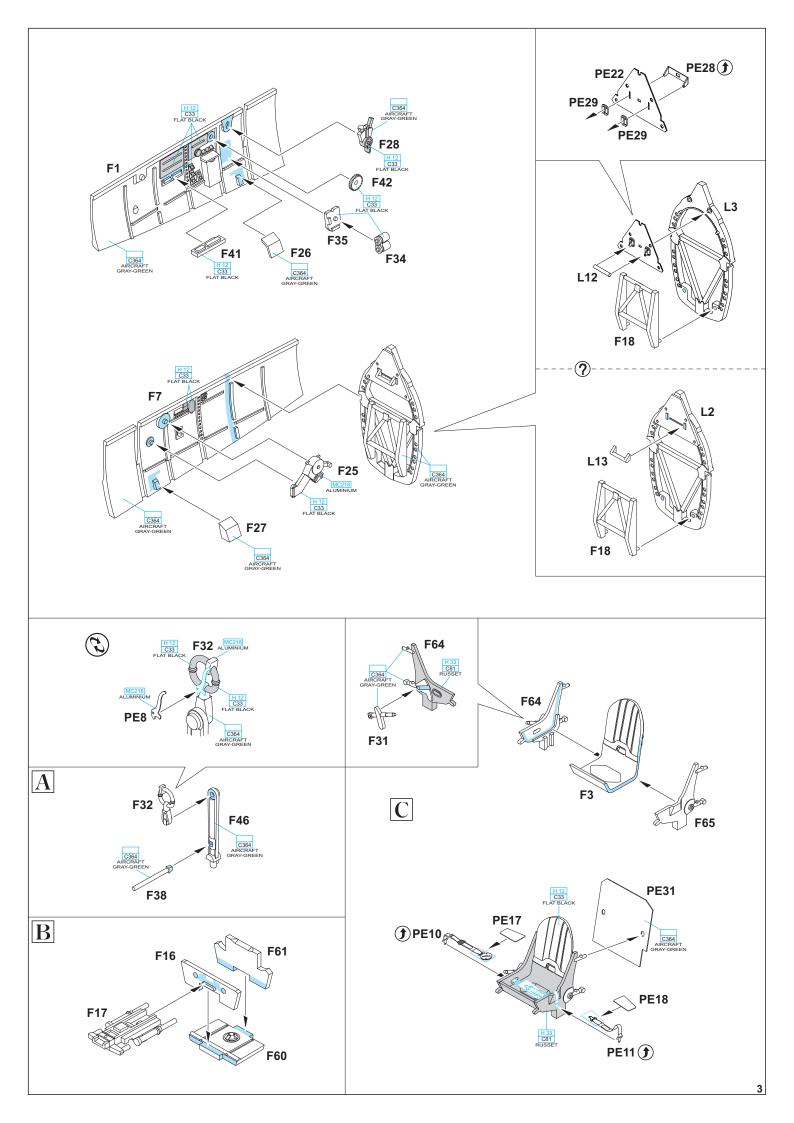
SUPER FINE SILVER

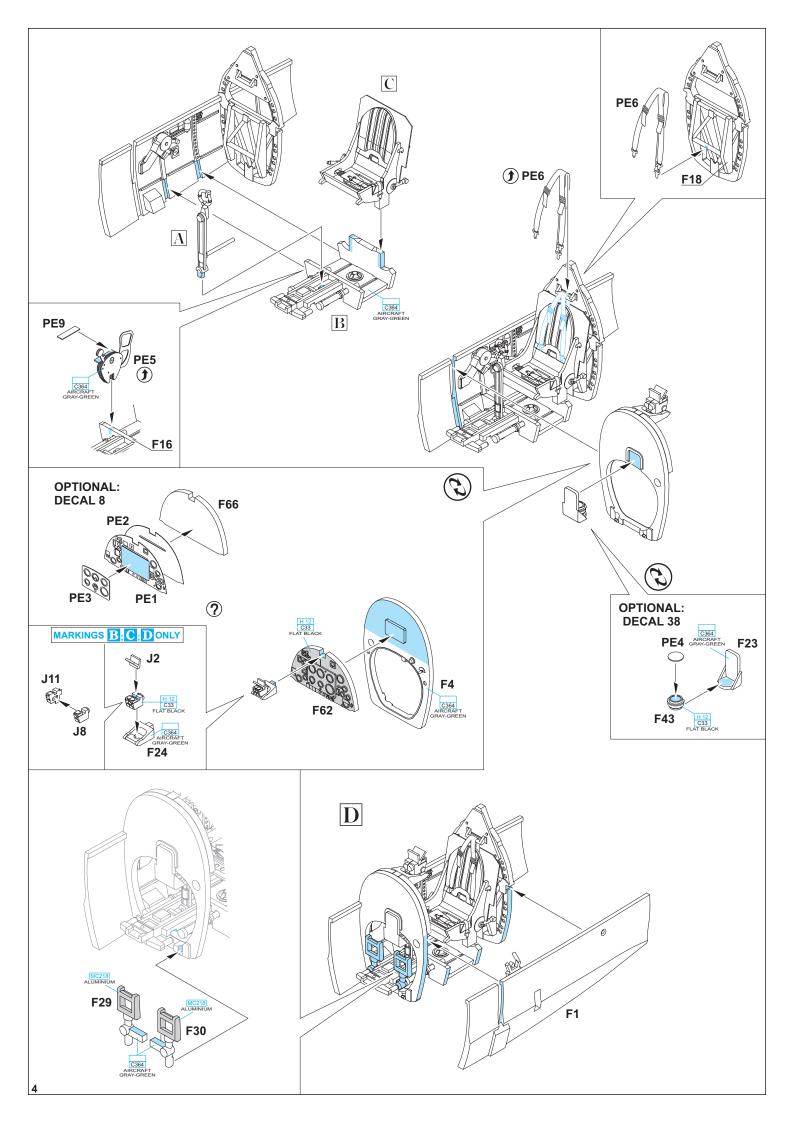
CHROME SILVER

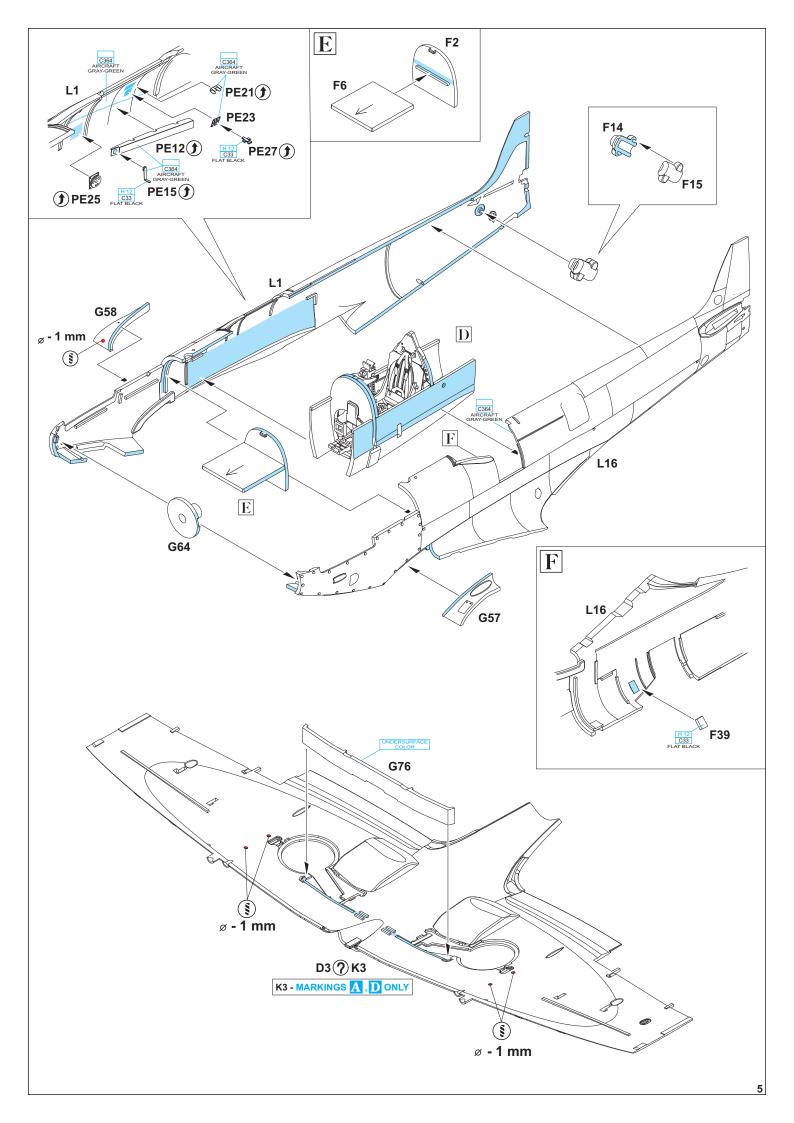
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC

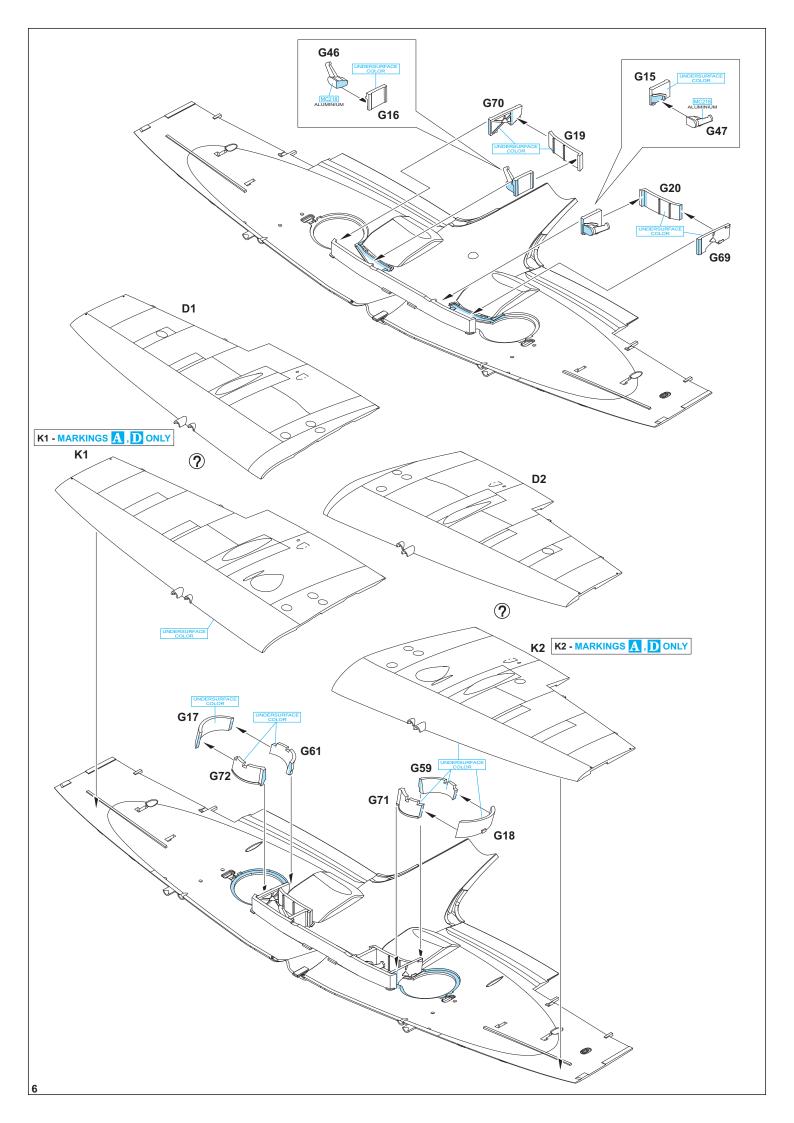
Parts not for use. -Teile werden nicht verwendet. -Pièces à ne pas utiliser. -Tyto díly nepoužívejte při stavbě. - 使用しない部品

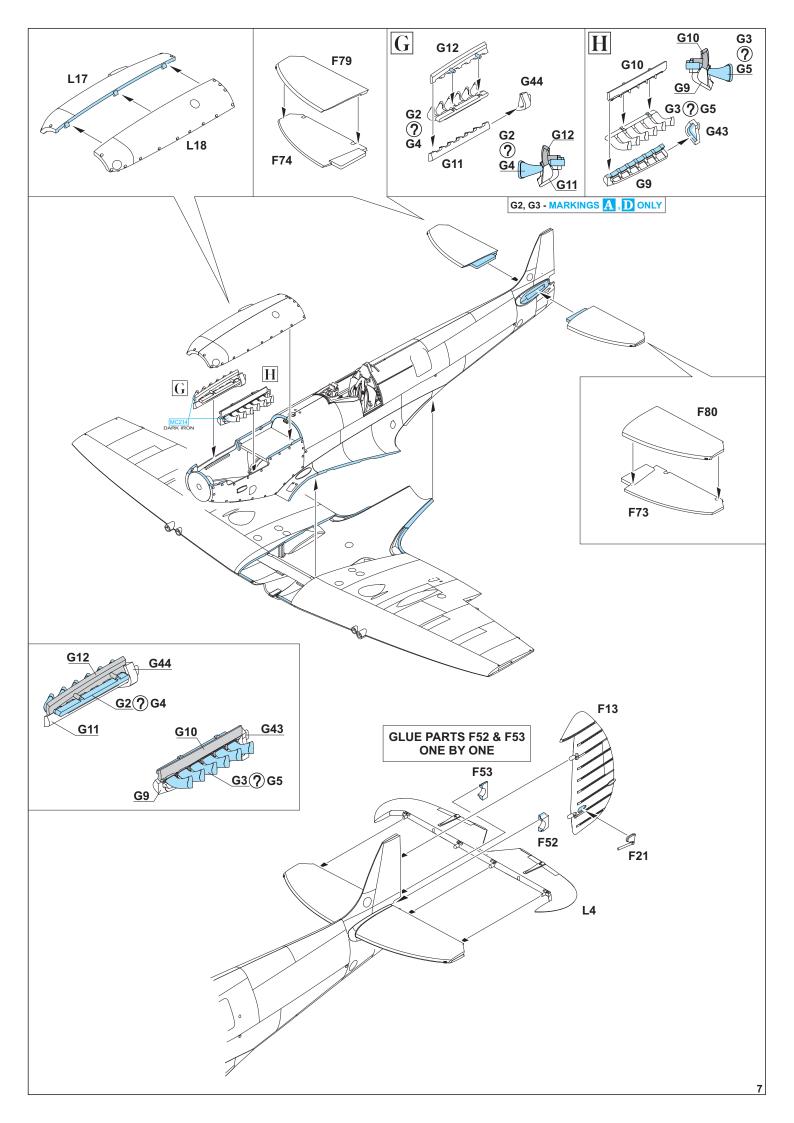
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GSi Creos (GUNZE)		]						
	AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR				AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
	H1	C1	WHITE			H 94	C138	CLEAR GREEN
	H 2	C2	BLACK				C361	MEDIUM SEAGRAY
	H3	C3	RED				C362	OCEAN GRAY
	H 4	C4	YELLOW				C363	DARK GREEN
	H 5	C5	BLUE				C364	AIRCRAFT GRAY-GREEN
	H 9	C9	GOLD	•		Mr.META	L COLOR	
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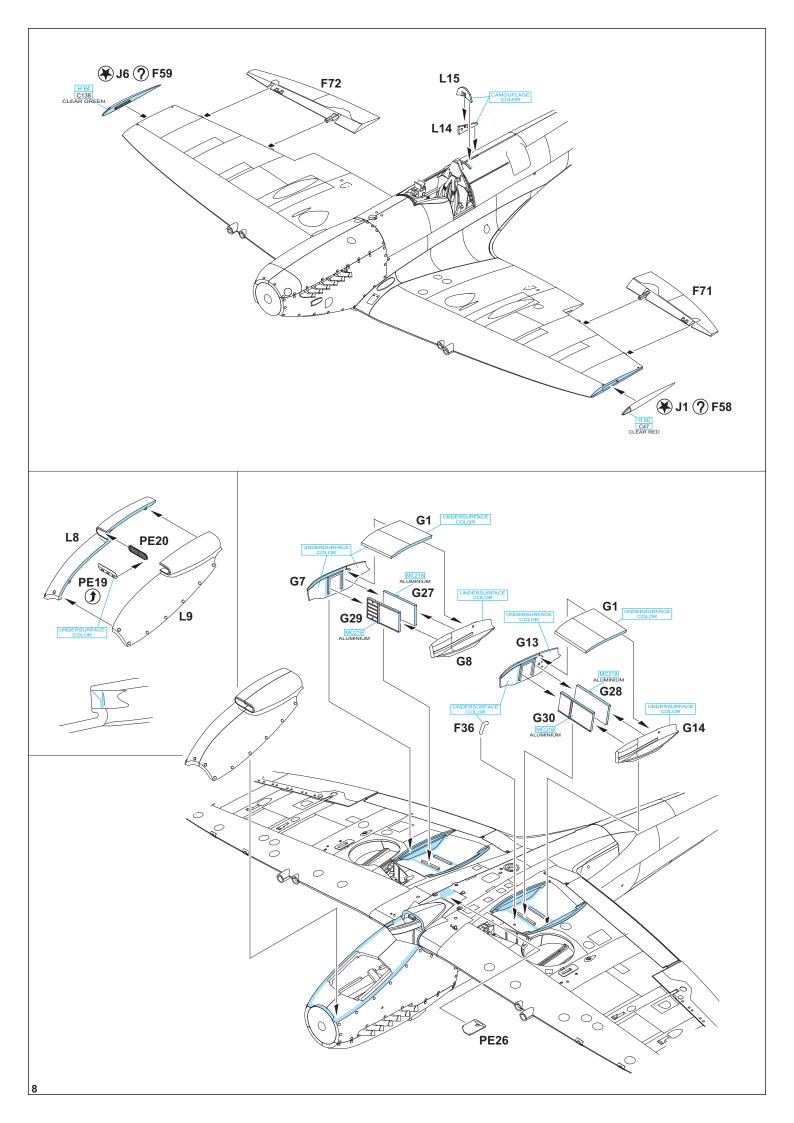


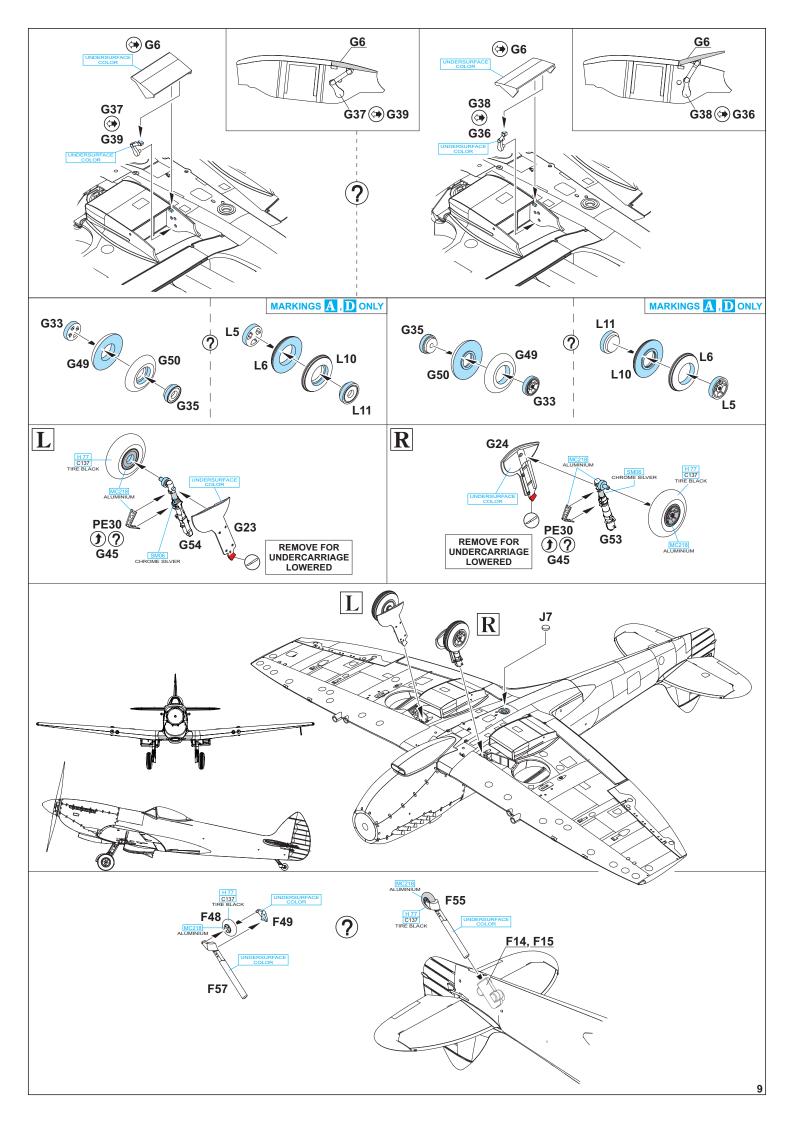


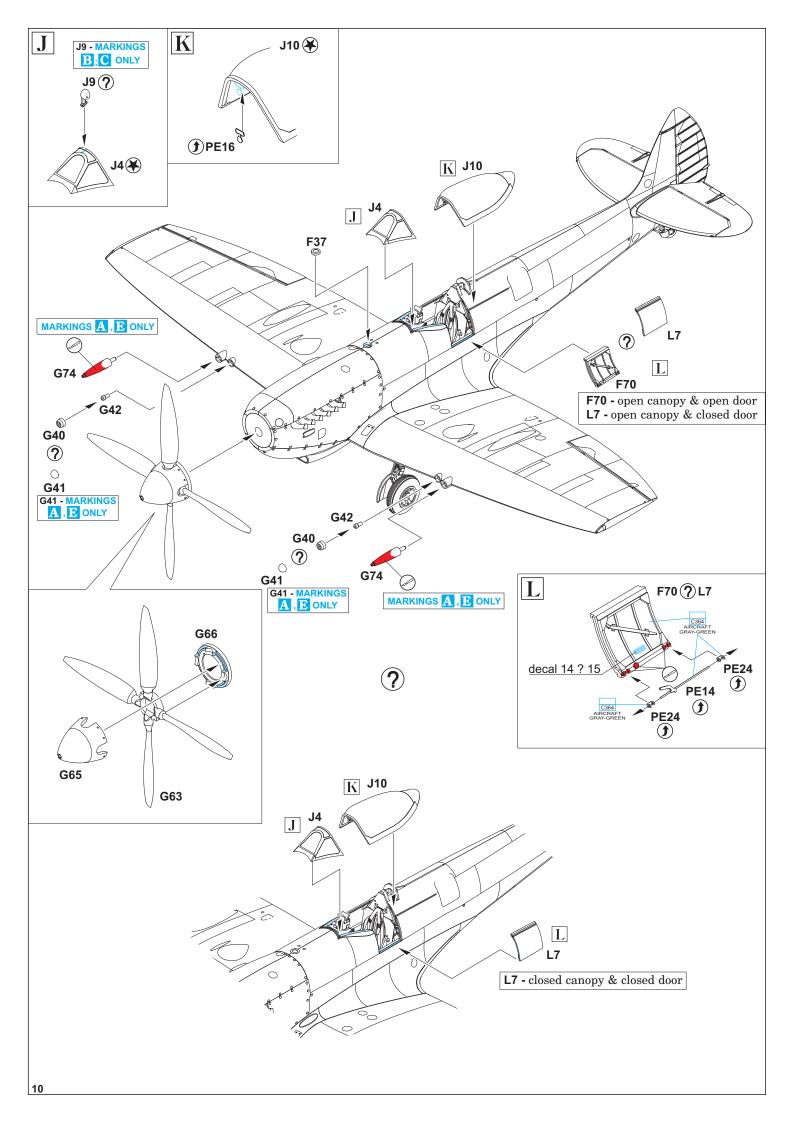


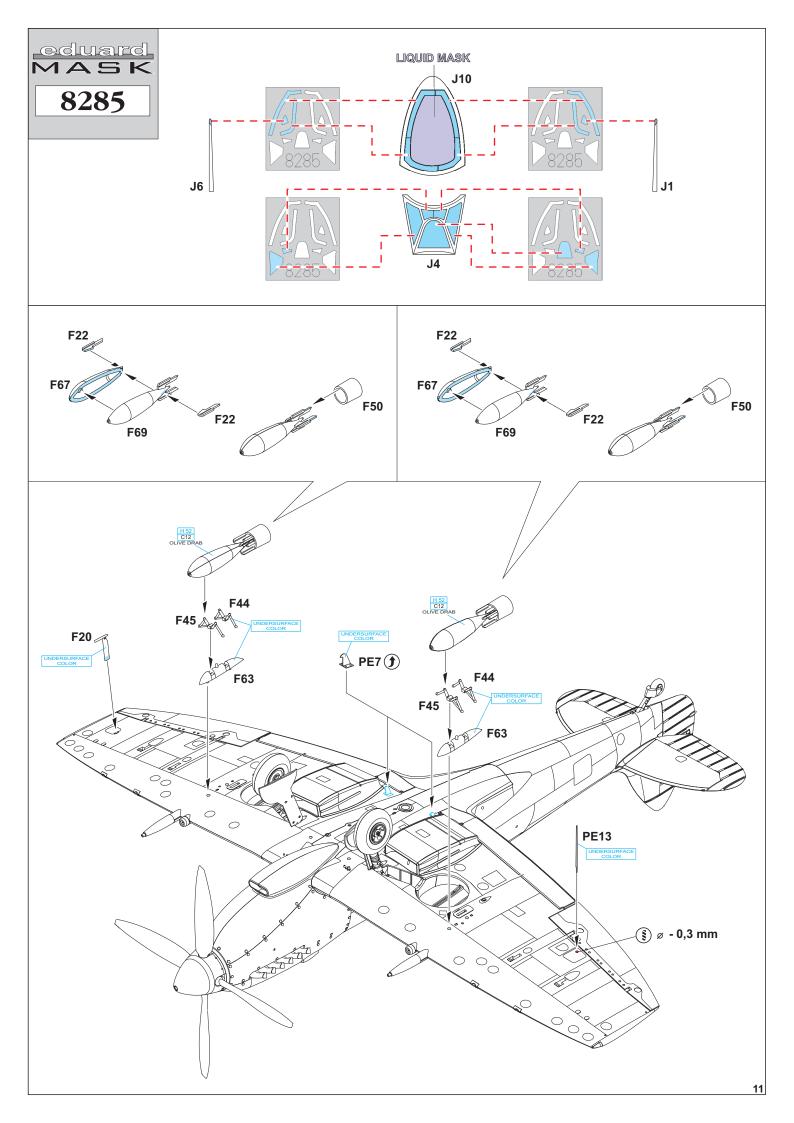






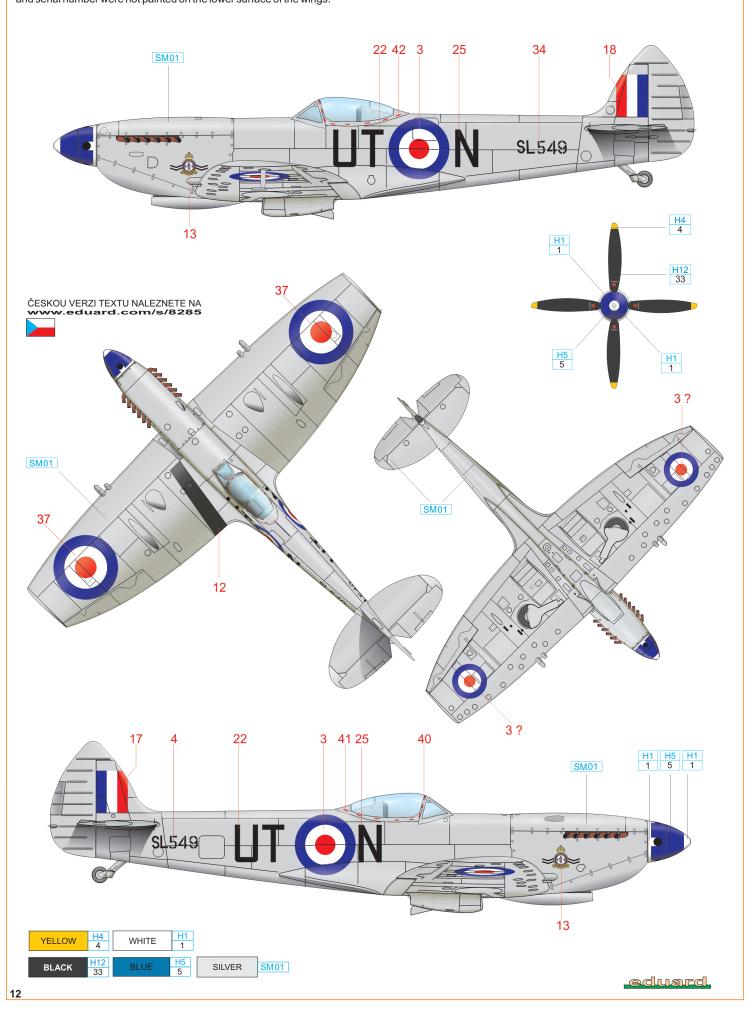






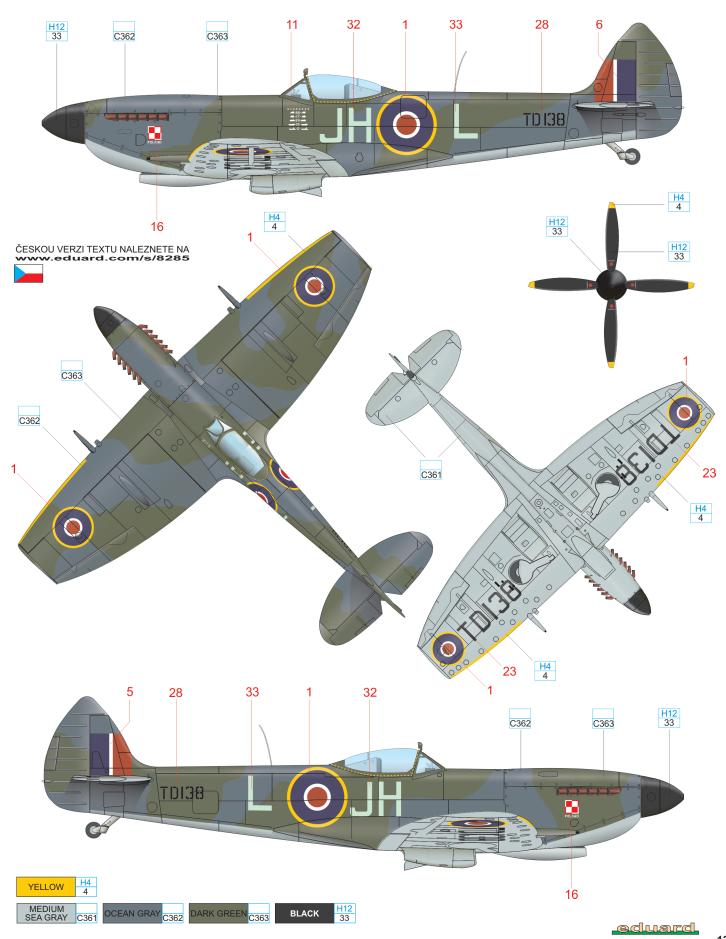
#### A SL549, No. 17 Squadron RAF, Farnborough Air Base, 1950

SL549 was overpainted in Aluminium. The national insignia matched regulations issued in May, 1947. Close examination of photos reveals that the roundels and serial number were not painted on the lower surface of the wings.



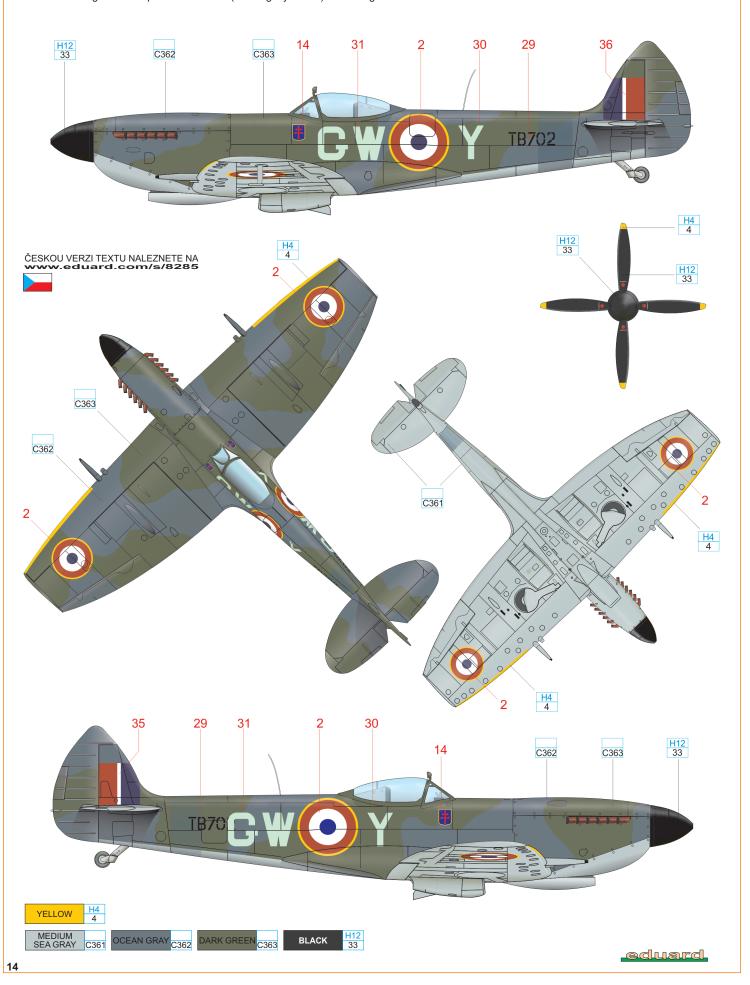
#### TD138, No. 317 Squadron RAF, Ahlhorn Air Base, Germany, Spring – Summer, 1946

TD138, previously operated by Nos. 345, 340 and 127 Squadrons, was assigned toNo. 317 (Polish) Squadron in late May, 1945. It was one of two Spitfires that were planned to be flown in a military parade in October, 1945 in Warsaw. Soviet representatives didn't want UK based Polish pilots to fly the aircraft in post-war Poland, so these Spitfires were flown by British pilots on a journey from Celle in Germany to Warszaw. Unfortunately, unpleasant weather forced the pilots to land in Poznan. More discord with the Soviets caused both of the Spitfires to head back to Germany instead of the Polish capital. The scoreboard below the windscreen is fictious and was intended to stress the combat deployment of Polish flyers against Nazi Germany. TD138 also wore the code letters JH M for a time.



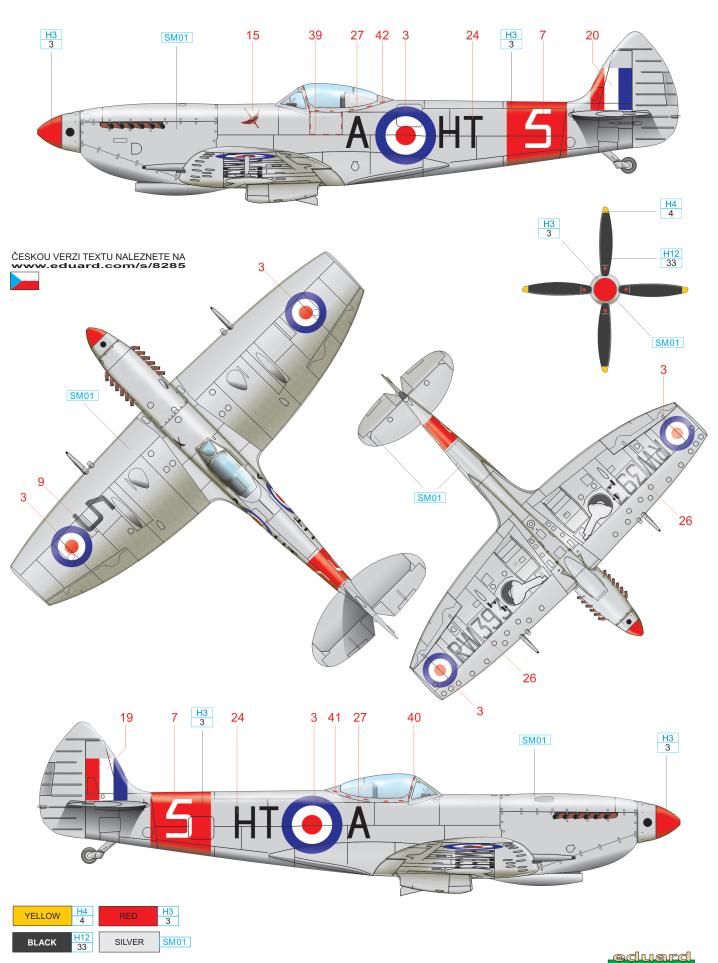
### C TB702, Flown by Cpt. P. G. J. Albertin, No. 340 Squadron RAF, B105 Airfield (Lingen/Drope), May, 1945

This aircraft was assigned to No. 340 Squadron in late April, 1945. The standard British roundels and fin flash were applied at that time. The French national insignia were not added until mid-May. Later on, in 1951, the aircraft was flown by No. 103 Flying Refresher School. It was written off after a cash in May, 1954. TB702 was operated by No. 3 Civilian Anti-Aircraft Co-Operation Unit at that time. The Day Fighter scheme camouflage colors are applied, and the Sky band on the rear fuselage was overpainted with fresh (thus slightly darker) camouflage colors.



#### RW393, No. 601 Squadron RAuxAF, 1949

This aircraft took part in the Cooper Air Race of 1949. The competition for RAuxAF squadrons was named after W/C Geoffrey Cooper, M.P. The winged sword painted in front of the windscreen is the No. 601 Squadron crest.



#### E TE199, Flown by Air Officer Commanding, No. 21 Group RAF, Swindersby Air Base, 1948

This aircraft from No. 21 Group was painted gloss black. The spinner and wings tips were gold. The Group was subordinate to Flying Training Command. Note the Air Vice Marshall pennant under the windscreen. The hue of the national insignia colors seems to be quite light, though it may be the result of the overall dark appearance of the aircraft was unarmed.

